

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help students  
do well in school*

Cumberland County Schools



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## December 2025

## Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Students Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Many college applications are due next month. Check to be sure your senior is making progress toward completing them.
- 2. If your teen has a decision to make, suggest listing every option, then writing down the pros and cons of each one.
- 3. Take turns making statements with your teen. Identify each as either *fact* or *opinion*.
- 4. Say something positive about your teen to another person—and let your high schooler overhear you.
- 5. Some teen parties involve alcohol. Talk with hosts' families to make sure no alcohol will be available before allowing your teen to attend.
- 6. Find a map of Europe from the 1950s. Have your teen compare it to a current map. How many changes can the two of you find?
- 7. Enjoy an outdoor activity with your teen.
- 8. When your teen tells you something important, repeat it aloud to confirm your understanding.
- 9. Ask what your teen thinks of each class at school.
- 10. Encourage your teen to do a good deed for a neighbor or a teacher.
- 11. Offer to help your teen review for a test. Call out vocabulary words or time your teen taking a practice test.
- 12. Urge your teen to focus on personal successes instead of making comparisons to others' lives.
- 13. Look for a community service project to do as a family.
- 14. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your teen today.
- 15. Have your teen look online for free audiobooks to listen to in the car.
- 16. Encourage your teen to write a letter or postcard to an older relative.
- 17. Suggest keeping a checklist in your teen's planner as a reminder to take home books, folders and other supplies needed for assignments.
- 18. Bow out of power struggles. Instead, when safe to do so, let your teen experience the consequences of personal choices.
- 19. Encourage your teen to use big colorful letters to write a math formula. This can make it easier to create a mental image of it.
- 20. At the grocery store, have your teen compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 21. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The warmest? Have your teen calculate the difference between the two temperatures.
- 22. Ask your teen: "Is honesty always the best policy? Why or why not?"
- 23. Talk with your teen about the dangers of opioid use.
- 24. Put your teen in charge of taking photos during a family event.
- 25. During dinner, have each family member say something nice about every person at the table.
- 26. Ask your teen: "What is the best gift you ever got? What made it special?"
- 27. Pretend you are tourists in your town. Visit local attractions together.
- 28. Encourage your teen to visit the library's website and find a free ebook to download and read.
- 29. Have your teen review your family's digital services and subscriptions, then look for ways to save money.
- 30. Talk together about things your family did in 2025. Which did your teen enjoy the most?
- 31. Have a conversation about what your teen learned in 2025.