

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
do well in school

Cumberland County Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Have a contest with your child. Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
- 2. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
- 3. Post a list on your refrigerator of contact numbers your child should call in an emergency. Role-play what to say.
- 4. Ask about an inexpensive activity that your child would like to make an annual family tradition. If possible, start it!
- 5. At breakfast, find an interesting word in the dictionary. Challenge family members to use it three times during the day.
- 6. Give your child a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.
- 7. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for kids your child's age.
- 8. Get out a large piece of white paper. Ask your child to draw or paint seasonal scenes. Use the paper to wrap gifts.
- 9. Use math to give instructions. For example, ask your child to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
- 10. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a classmate or teacher this week.
- 11. Turn off screen devices tonight. Read or play games as a family instead.
- 12. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse. Together, practice making change.
- 13. With your child, think of examples of *onomatopoeia* (words that sound like what they mean), such as *buzz*, *hiss* and *thunk*.
- 14. Trace around your elementary schooler on a big piece of paper. Have your child research and draw what human insides look like.
- 15. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes. Decorate your windows.
- 16. Look at family photos together. How many relatives can your child name?
- 17. Enjoy some physical activity as a family.
- 18. Hide an object and provide three easy clues to find it. When your child is successful, offer praise for following directions.
- 19. Pay your child a specific compliment today.
- 20. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 21. Today is the *winter solstice*, the darkest day of the year. Give everyone in the family a flashlight so they can read in bed.
- 22. Try blowing bubbles with your child in freezing weather. How does the cold temperature affect them?
- 23. Ask your child to help you make dinner.
- 24. Read a poem with your child today.
- 25. Have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.
- 26. Let your child see you enjoying reading. Say, "I love to read!"
- 27. Do you know a student who is home from college? Ask the student to talk with your child about what college is like.
- 28. Watch or read the weather forecast together today. Locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- 29. Help your child write and mail a letter to a friend.
- 30. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 31. Help your child make a time line of the past year.