

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school*

Special School District Schools
Title I.A - Family Engagement



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2018-2019

December 2018

- 1. Share the responsibility for holiday preparations. As kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.
- 2. Set aside time today to work on a craft project with your child. Handmade items make great gifts!
- 3. Give your child a magnet. Have her use it to find out which things in your house contain iron.
- 4. Talk with your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 5. Put on some music and have your child spend 15 minutes drawing how it makes him feel.
- 6. Ask your child, "If you could have any animal as a pet, which would it be? Why?"
- 7. Make a jigsaw puzzle together. Glue a picture from a magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- 8. Help your child research what happened on the day she was born.
- 9. At the grocery store, ask your child to estimate the weights of different vegetables and fruits. Then weigh them.
- 10. Give your child a plant to care for. Put him in charge of watering it.
- 11. Hold a family meeting. Decide on some goals as a family.
- 12. Post a new vocabulary word and its definition on the bathroom mirror. Change it every three or four days.
- 13. Talk with your child about times when it's important to say *no*, even to an adult.
- 14. Look at a weather map. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The warmest? Have your child calculate the difference in temperature.
- 15. Exercise as a family. Choose an activity everyone will enjoy.

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

- 16. Have a family sing-along. Ask everyone to share their favorite songs.
- 17. Make a "clock" by using a fastener to attach two strips of paper to a paper plate. Help your child practice telling time.
- 18. Have your child track the amount of time she spends reading this week. Help her figure out the average time she spent reading per day.
- 19. Talk with your child about how animals survive the winter months.
- 20. Recreate a favorite tradition from your youth. Share it with your child.
- 21. Have your child make a list of things he can do when he's bored.
- 22. Bake cookies with your child. Have her do the math to find out the amounts of ingredients you'd need if you doubled the recipe.
- 23. Share a favorite quote with your child.
- 24. Talk with your child about *courage*. Point out examples of people who demonstrate courage.
- 25. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
- 26. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in winter.
- 27. Help your child think of something nice he can do for a neighbor.
- 28. Ask your child about the best gift she ever got. What made it special?
- 29. Remove the headline of a news article. Have your child read the article and write a headline. Compare the two headlines.
- 30. Tell your child you love him today and every day.
- 31. Help your child create a time line of the last year.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

January 2019

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- 1. With your child, invent a special holiday just for your family.
- 2. Encourage your child to start a journal this year.
- 3. Have your child name a food she loves. Help her learn more about where it comes from.
- 4. Make an appointment to spend some one-on-one time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar.
- 5. Ask your child to help you plan three healthy breakfasts.
- 6. Encourage your child to be a critical TV viewer. Watch programs with him and ask questions like, "Why do you think the character did that?"
- 7. Play a card game such as Go Fish with your child.
- 8. If you don't have time to read to your child at night, read in the morning instead. It's a real "power breakfast."
- 9. What is your child's favorite time of year? What does she like about it?
- 10. Have your child draw something that happened in school today. Then talk about it.
- 11. Ask your child about the qualities he looks for in friends. Talk about why *values* are important.
- 12. Have your child help you organize something, such as a closet.
- 13. Compliment your child on a recent accomplishment.
- 14. Model good manners for your child. Say, "Please pass the ..." and "Thank you very much."
- 15. Watch a funny video with your child. Then have her draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 16. Pick a category, such as colors. Have your child pick a letter. How many colors can you each name that begin with that letter?

- 17. Help your child record herself reading a story.
- 18. Watch a TV show with the sound off. Ask family members to make up the dialogue.
- 19. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes.
- 20. Encourage your child to sort his books by subject.
- 21. Help your child make an "I am special" scrapbook. Add photos and mementos throughout the year.
- 22. Ask your child to measure the dimensions of objects in your house. How many six-inch long items can she find?
- 23. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Reenact an event together.
- 24. Ask your child to help you do a household chore today. Remember to thank him when he finishes.
- 25. Plan a weekend activity the whole family will enjoy.
- 26. In the car, ask your child to add up the numbers on the license plates she sees.
- 27. Have family members try doing activities with the hand they *don't* favor.
- 28. Teach your child how to sew on a button.
- 29. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- 30. Have your child teach you something he is learning in school.
- 31. Read a story to your child. Later, ask her to retell it from memory.

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TIPS FAMILIES CAN USE TO HELP CHILDREN DO BETTER IN SCHOOL



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February 2019

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

- 1. Try a new mode of transportation with your child, such as a train or bus.
- 2. Go to the library and encourage your child to check out some books. Check out some books for yourself, too!
- 3. What are your child's academic interests? Talk about how those topics can help him outside of school.
- 4. On a thin piece of cardboard, have your child draw a scene or write a quotation from a book to make a bookmark.
- 5. Review your child's schedule. Does she have enough "down time"?
- 6. Challenge family members to get creative in the kitchen. See who can invent the greatest tasting new pizza topping.
- 7. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of things to do in your town. Which ones appeal to your child?
- 8. Encourage your child to write a Valentine's message to someone who is sick or lonely. Mail it to that person.
- 9. Have your child dissolve some salt in a glass of water. Watch for a few days. Talk about what happens.
- 10. Set aside time today to work on a hobby with your child.
- 11. Have your child pretend to be a news anchor and give you a report about his day.
- 12. Ask your child if she has ever been bullied or witnessed bullying in school. If she has, be sure to alert the school.
- 13. Find a world map. Show your child where his ancestors came from.
- 14. Show and tell family members that you love them.
- 15. Put three items in a bag. Challenge your child to use them as props in an improvised skit.

- 16. Check out a joke book at the library. Take turns sharing jokes at dinner.
- 17. Read a favorite fairy tale to your child.
- 18. Make a crossword puzzle out of your child's spelling words. Solving it will help her review.
- 19. When your child makes a good decision, reward him with praise.
- 20. Ask your child about people she admires and why she admires them.
- 21. Have each family member bring an interesting fact to dinner.
- 22. It's George Washington's birthday. Help your child learn something new about the first U.S. president.
- 23. Discuss outer space with your child. Teach him to remember the order of the planets using "My Very Elegant Mother Just Served Us Noodles" (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune).
- 24. Ask your child to make a list of items in your home that come from plants.
- 25. Make math yummy. Give your child raisins or mini marshmallows to use as manipulatives when adding and subtracting.
- 26. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of an appliance or a family pet.
- 27. Tie a string between two chairs. Use a balloon to play indoor volleyball with your child.
- 28. Have your child read to you as you're cleaning up after supper. Or read to your child as she cleans up!

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