

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Special School District Schools  
Title I.A - Family Engagement



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2018-2019

## December 2018

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

- 1. Bake cookies with your child. Let her decorate them creatively.
- 2. Is your family celebrating a holiday this month? Ask your child to take over responsibility for one or two holiday traditions.
- 3. Ask your child about a book he is reading. Are the characters realistic?
- 4. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of upcoming festive events. Plan to attend one as a family.
- 5. Check on your child's goals for the school year. Is she making progress?
- 6. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The hottest? Have your child calculate the difference between the two temperatures.
- 7. Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast every day.
- 8. Play a game with your child—cards, charades, a board game—whatever he'd like.
- 9. Suggest that your child donate some of her time over winter break. Look for volunteering activities you can do together.
- 10. Books are great gifts for kids. Ask your librarian to recommend some.
- 11. Meet the parents of your child's friends. Work as a team to keep your kids safe.
- 12. When helping your child with schoolwork, be positive, even if he gets discouraged.
- 13. Do something the "old-fashioned" way with your child.
- 14. Play Alphabet Mix-Up. Choose a word, then rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 15. Have your child estimate how long an assignment will take. Write her estimate down. Then have her time how long it really takes.
- 16. Ask your child to teach you something he's learning in school. Let him explain it (even if you already know the material). Ask questions.
- 17. Discuss the importance of regular school attendance with your child.
- 18. Talk to your child about people she admires. What does she like about them?
- 19. Give your child stress-relief tips, such as taking deep breaths.
- 20. Ask your child to take photos during family events. This may increase his interest in participating.
- 21. Learn a magic trick with your child.
- 22. Have your child interview older relatives about their childhood days.
- 23. Ask your child what she feels is the most important thing she has learned at school so far this year.
- 24. Encourage your child to make lists to help him remember things.
- 25. Give your child a hug today.
- 26. Expect your child to write thank-you notes for gifts. It's polite and it builds writing skills.
- 27. Take turns calling out names of famous people and guessing what the people named did. Then look it up.
- 28. Let your child overhear you say something good about her.
- 29. Offer to drive your child and his friends somewhere. In the car, listen.
- 30. Suggest that your child play archeologist. What could she say about the people in your home, based on what she finds there?
- 31. Help your child create a time line of the past year.

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# January 2019

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- 1. Have your child write down learning resolutions for the coming year. Make some for yourself, as well.
- 2. Together, make a list of the best low-cost activities you did during the last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do them again this year.
- 3. Celebrate your child's accomplishments when he achieves a goal.
- 4. Ask your child, "What do you wish we did differently at home?" Be open to suggestions.
- 5. Ask your child to recommend a book for you to read.
- 6. Let your child take over a responsibility you've previously done for her.
- 7. Pause when you talk with your child. Silences allow time to think.
- 8. Have your child solve a personal math problem: "How many days have you been alive?"
- 9. Does your child hate to lose? Tell him that trying is more important than winning.
- 10. Do something you and your child have never done before. Try a new food. Listen to a new type of music. Visit a new place.
- 11. Write your child a letter about how wonderful you think she is.
- 12. Read an article from the newspaper together. Discuss your opinions.
- 13. Look through some job listings with your child. Have him circle jobs that look interesting. Notice the requirements.
- 14. Have your child figure out the average of something, such as the age of family members.
- 15. Tell your child a story that teaches her an important lesson.
- 16. Play Math Jeopardy. Say a number. Can your child come up with an equation for which your number is the answer?

- 17. Notice the states on license plates. Challenge your child to name something about each state you see.
- 18. With your child, think of synonyms for common words. For example, a synonym for *talk* is *converse*.
- 19. Watch a TV show about nature with your child.
- 20. Start a family book club. Give each person a turn selecting a book. After everyone reads the same book, talk about it.
- 21. Tell your child about what middle school was like for you.
- 22. Today, talk to your child as you would to a friend or co-worker. How does your child respond?
- 23. Encourage your child to get to know at least three new people outside of his normal group of friends.
- 24. Teach your child a card game.
- 25. Ensure there is adult supervision when your child visits a friend.
- 26. Review your rules for your child. Are they appropriate for her age?
- 27. Ask your child, "If you could change one thing in the entire world, what would it be?" Listen carefully to his answer.
- 28. Tell your child about your day—in as much detail as you'd like to hear about hers.
- 29. With your child, try to list things you each did two days ago.
- 30. Ask your child how he feels the school year is going so far.
- 31. Take a walk with your child today.

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# February 2019

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

- 1. Do a taste test with your child. Try different brands of a food you like. Which one tastes better?
- 2. Talk with your child about what to do in case of a kitchen fire.
- 3. Ask your child, "If you had to name your three best qualities, what would you say?"
- 4. Today is the birthday of Rosa Parks. With your child, learn more about this woman who changed history.
- 5. Teach your child symbols that speed up note-taking, such as *w/* for *with*.
- 6. Talk with your child about mistakes. What should people do when they make a mistake? (Admit it, try to fix it and learn from it.)
- 7. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz each other at dinner.
- 8. Have your child write a Valentine's message to someone who is sick or lonely. Mail it to that person.
- 9. Challenge your child to figure out how many square feet of carpet it would take to cover her bedroom floor.
- 10. Ask your child what he would do if a friend of his stole something from a store.
- 11. Pick a subject. Together, think of as many things as possible that are connected to it.
- 12. Have your child estimate how many bowls of cereal can be poured from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
- 13. Look for a food label written in several different languages. Can your child guess what languages they are?
- 14. Tell your child one specific thing you love about her.
- 15. Does your child have homework to do over the weekend? Make sure he schedules time to complete it.

- 16. At the library, help your child research a dream career.
- 17. See if your child can list the planets other than Earth.
- 18. Don't let your child watch TV or videos while studying (except those about the topic), no matter how much she wants to do so.
- 19. Look at a map of the U.S. or Canada with your child. Point to a region he's never visited. What does he know about it?
- 20. Remind your child not to reveal personal information online.
- 21. Check on your child's supply of paper, pencils and other school supplies. Replace needed items.
- 22. Help your child set priorities when studying. Which assignment is most important? Due first? Most difficult?
- 23. Start a long-term project with your child such as a jigsaw puzzle. Don't give up.
- 24. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your child today.
- 25. Ask your child what would happen if everyone ignored laws for a day.
- 26. Talk with your child about what it means to be a gracious winner and a good loser.
- 27. Watch your child's favorite TV show with her. Ask questions, such as "Who is your favorite character?"
- 28. Listen to a piece of music that has no lyrics. Have your child write his own words to the song.

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