

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children  
prepare for school*

Columbus City Schools  
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## December 2025

## Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Prepare for School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. If your family will be traveling this month, pack a bag of books and toys to keep your child entertained. Offer them one by one.
- 2. How do the trees look today? Talk with your child about how things look different when the trees have fewer or no leaves.
- 3. Sprinkle glitter, oatmeal or sand on finger paint. Talk about *texture* as your child makes designs.
- 4. Ask your child, "What do you think are the three best things about yourself?"
- 5. Cut a piece of string into three pieces. Can your child arrange them from *shortest* to *longest*?
- 6. Have a device-free evening tonight. Read or play games instead.
- 7. Allow some extra bath time. Supervise while your child plays in the water with plastic pitchers, cups and spoons.
- 8. Write your preschooler's name with glue on construction paper. Let your child stick cereal pieces or dried beans on the glue.
- 9. Make a simple bird feeder. Help your child spread peanut butter or shortening on a cardboard tube and roll it in birdseed. Hang it outside.
- 10. Talk about your child's favorite winter activity. Then, make plans to do it together.
- 11. Hang a calendar where your child can see it. Each morning, let your preschooler mark the day with a smiley face.
- 12. Read a story to your child and use a different voice for each character.
- 13. At the library, check out books about a subject that interests your child.
- 14. Pretend to have a magic carpet that can fly anywhere. Where would you and your child go? What would you see?
- 15. Can your child think of a different ending to a favorite story?
- 16. Count how long your child can balance standing on one foot. What about the other foot? Now, try it with eyes closed.
- 17. Use cotton balls to have an indoor "snowball fight" with your child.
- 18. Help your child make cards for family members. Your preschooler can draw on the front, and you can write on the inside.
- 19. Look at baby pictures of your preschooler together. Talk about all the things your child has learned since then.
- 20. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in December.
- 21. Sing favorite songs with your child today.
- 22. Share a favorite holiday tradition from your own childhood with your preschooler. Recreate it if possible.
- 23. Model polite table manners for your child. Say "Please pass the ...," and "Thank you very much."
- 24. With your child, look for the number 4 everywhere you go today.
- 25. Today and every day, express your love for your child.
- 26. Ask about the very best present your child ever received. What made it special?
- 27. Role-play school activities with your child. Take turns being the teacher.
- 28. Teach your child how to make paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.
- 29. Write instructions on pieces of paper, such as "hop on one foot." Take turns drawing one out of a hat and following the directions.
- 30. At bedtime, help your child reflect on achievements this year. Talk about the year to come.
- 31. Encourage your child to draw a self-portrait.