

Daily Learning Planner

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

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- ☐ 1. Show your child how to use tweezers to pick things up, with supervision.
- ☐ 2. Help your child do a good deed for a neighbor or friend today.
- ☐ 3. Make a "touch box." Put items such as cotton balls, rocks and small toys into it. With eyes closed, can your child guess what's inside by the feel?
- ☐ 4. Stretch a rope on the ground. Show your child how to jump over it from side to side.
- ☐ 5. Start a nature log. Have your child draw a picture of the same outdoor feature, such as a tree, every few months.
- ☐ 6. Keep a box or basket as home base for library books. You'll always know where they are when it's time to return them.
- ☐ 7. Tell a story about when your child was a baby.
- ☐ 8. Read about holidays around the world together. Choose a new holiday for your family to observe, or invent one.
- ☐ 9. Challenge your child to draw blindfolded. Supervise to ensure marks stay on the paper.
- ☐ 10. Ask your child questions to boost creative thinking. "What would you bring to a picnic in a tree?"
- ☐ 11. Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Have your child tap them gently with a metal spoon and listen to the different tones.
- ☐ 12. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what's in the picture?
- ☐ 13. Help your child decorate each finger of an old pair of gloves, then put on a finger puppet show.
- ☐ 14. Watch an educational show with your child. Then, discuss a value or practice a new skill from the show.
- ☐ 15. Look at a school bus. Ask your child, "How is it different from a car?"
- ☐ 16. Tell your preschooler family stories you can remember from when you were a child.
- ☐ 17. Find a new word in the dictionary. Talk about what it means with your child. Use it in sentences today.
- ☐ 18. Assign your child an age-appropriate household job. It's never too early to learn responsibility!
- ☐ 19. Tonight, talk about things that your child would like to learn.
- ☐ 20. Walk with your child in different ways—slowly, quickly, lightly, heavily, on tiptoes, etc.
- ☐ 21. Have your preschooler draw a picture. Ask your child to make up a story about it and tell it to you.
- ☐ 22. Have a Family Night In. Everyone curl up with a good book.
- ☐ 23. When serving food, talk with your child about how you divide it. "There are two of us and one apple. We'll cut it into halves."
- ☐ 24. Make a sound—by jingling keys, for example—and ask your child to guess what you are doing without looking.
- ☐ 25. When your child tries to do something, praise the effort, even if it isn't successful.
- ☐ 26. Gather some household objects and ask your child to line them up from *smallest* to *largest*.
- ☐ 27. Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.
- ☐ 28. Ask your child to build a city using blocks or boxes.
- ☐ 29. Write a number and have your child mold the shape of the number with clay or play dough.
- ☐ 30. Look at the weather forecast with your child today. Compare the weather where you live to the rest of the country.