

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2025

March 2025

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

- 1. Spring is around the corner! Help your child plant a seed in a cup on the windowsill.
- 2. Go to a nearby park or running trail. Everyone run like the March wind!
- 3. Discuss the differences between night and day with your preschooler.
- 4. Have a family reading night. Select a few books and take turns reading aloud.
- 5. Teach your child the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- 6. Wash hands with your child before each meal. Talk about the importance of washing your hands to stay healthy.
- 7. Help your child say or do things that make family members and friends feel good about themselves.
- 8. Play a game of Follow the Leader. Take turns *leading* and *following* and talk to your child about what those words mean.
- 9. Bake a cake together. Help your child decorate it.
- 10. Put a handful of change on the table. Can your child identify the coins by name? Talk about the sizes, colors and values.
- 11. Pretend that one of your child's stuffed animals is sad. Ask your preschooler, "What could you do to help it feel better?"
- 12. Notice what your child is interested in and ask an open-ended question about it. "Where do you think that truck might be going?"
- 13. Have your child name an animal that has stripes and one that has spots.
- 14. Help your child think of an imaginary land. Together, name it and make up a story about it.
- 15. Speak in a voice that helps your child listen. Avoid speaking too fast or too loud.
- 16. Play a game of hide and seek with your child.
- 17. Have a *green* day. Wear green, eat green foods, look for green objects.
- 18. Turn your child's plate upside down before putting food on it. Explain the concept of *upside down*.
- 19. Talk with your child about things that interest you and about new things you learn.
- 20. Describe a noise and ask your child to tell you if it's *loud* or *soft*. Examples: thunderstorm (loud), kisses (soft).
- 21. Place a familiar item in a pillowcase. Let your child feel the item through the outside of the pillowcase and guess what it is.
- 22. Talk with your child about things that are associated with spring (flowers, picnics, sunshine).
- 23. Drop a pebble in a glass of water. Have your child describe what happens. Next, drop in a small plastic bottle cap. What is different?
- 24. Put together a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 25. Avoid teasing or blaming your child for honest mistakes.
- 26. What is your child's favorite vegetable? Talk about different ways to prepare it. Cook it together.
- 27. When you read books to your child that have more than one picture per page, point to the picture that goes with the text as you read.
- 28. Encourage your child to draw a self-portrait.
- 29. Talk with your child about when to say *excuse me*.
- 30. Turn chores into a game. Assign age-appropriate chores a number and have your child roll a die to see which one to do this week.
- 31. When you give directions, ask your child to repeat what you said.

April 2025

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

- 1. It's April Fool's Day! Enjoy saying silly things to each other today.
- 2. April is Math and Statistics Awareness Month. Use numbers and math words with your child in lots of ways this month.
- 3. Ask your child, "How many things can you name that can fly?"
- 4. Cut out shapes from various colors of paper. Make at least two different colors of each shape. Have your child match them.
- 5. Help your child learn words that describe spatial relationships between objects. Ask, "What's *next* to the stove?" "What's *above* the table?"
- 6. Let your child draw on paper towels with washable markers. Spray the towels with water and watch the colors blend!
- 7. When you are on the road together, have your child point out all the STOP signs. If this is too easy, look for YIELD signs.
- 8. Make a letter tree. Hang new letters from the tree as your child learns them.
- 9. Make up a story in which your child is the main character.
- 10. Celebrate National Poetry Month. Read three poems with your child today.
- 11. Review safety rules for car trips, such as wearing a seat belt and keeping all body parts inside the car.
- 12. Put some items on the table. Have your child point to each as you count them together. Rearrange them and count them again.
- 13. Call your local fire station to find out when the firefighters wash the trucks outside. Go watch with your child.
- 14. Reinforce learning at mealtimes. "Look, this plate is a circle. What shape is your napkin?"
- 15. Help your child make a simple map or model of your street.
- 16. Have your preschooler decorate a paper plate. Cut holes for your child's eyes and mouth to create a mask.
- 17. Do some stretching exercises with your child today.
- 18. Expose your child to different kinds of writing. Read fiction, biographies, nonfiction, reporting and even instructions together.
- 19. Show your child two items of clothing you are thinking of wearing. Let your preschooler choose which one you'll wear.
- 20. On a sunny day, notice your shadows outside together. Where is the sun in relation to you? If you turn around, do your shadows move?
- 21. Teach your child the names of different types of flowers.
- 22. Help your child repurpose items instead of throwing them away. Plastic two-liter bottles can become bowling pins or bats, for example.
- 23. Sing some nursery rhymes with your child.
- 24. Have a pretend phone call with your child. Ask about what your preschooler did *yesterday* and what might be fun to do *tomorrow*.
- 25. Ask your child, "What are some hard things about being a kid?"
- 26. Have an indoor picnic. Spread a blanket on the floor and play music. Let your child help choose the menu.
- 27. Ask your child to put away three items. Afterward, see if your preschooler can tell you what they were.
- 28. Show your child that mixing blue and yellow paint makes green. What does your child think mixing blue and red will make? Try it and see!
- 29. With your child, look at a tree in your neighborhood. How has it changed in the last few weeks?
- 30. Help your child write the words for favorite things, such as *dog*, *jam* and *ball*.

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May 2025

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

- 1. Talk with your child about ways to deal with anger without hurting anyone. Suggest taking three deep breaths to calm down.
- 2. Look at the weather forecast with your child today. Compare where you live to the rest of the country.
- 3. Help your child do more things independently. Instead of turning on the light, offer a safe step stool your preschooler can use.
- 4. It's National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Enjoy a new physical activity you can do together as a family.
- 5. Practice naming the months of the year with your child.
- 6. Go outside and blow bubbles. See if your child can catch one without breaking it.
- 7. Look for playgrounds where your child can run, jump and climb safely. These are important motor skills.
- 8. Cut out a triangle, a rectangle, a square and a circle from construction paper. Ask your child to arrange them to form a boat.
- 9. Help your child make unusual prints by dipping flowers or other natural objects into paint and then pressing them onto paper.
- 10. Play a board game as a family this evening.
- 11. Fill several bottles with water to different levels. Show your child how to blow across the tops to make different sounds.
- 12. Visit a place together that your child hasn't been before.
- 13. Tape the ends of a long piece of yarn. Cut some drinking straws into several pieces. Have your child string the straw pieces onto the yarn.
- 14. Put up a family message board. Teach your child how to write "Hi!"
- 15. Ask your child to repeat a short sentence. If this is easy, add words.
- 16. Help your child make a collage from odds and ends around the house, such as ribbons, string and buttons.
- 17. Make today *triangle* day. With your child, look for triangles everywhere.
- 18. Decorate a shoebox to make a treasure chest. Fill it with small treats. Hide it and have a treasure hunt. Give your child clues to find the box.
- 19. Sing your child's favorite song together.
- 20. Encourage your child to bounce a large ball outside and try to catch it.
- 21. Restrict digital media use to areas of your home where you can supervise. Don't let your child go off alone with a handheld device.
- 22. Help your child prepare for new situations by discussing them in advance. What behavior will be expected?
- 23. When setting the table, add something that should not be there. Ask your child what doesn't belong.
- 24. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
- 25. Make a list of five fun things to do as a family this summer.
- 26. Ask your child to make up a story and tell it to you.
- 27. When you read to your child, point out that you start on the left side of the page and read to the right side, then begin again on the left.
- 28. Model positive habits, like promptness, cooperation and responsibility.
- 29. Label items in your child's room with their names: *bed*, *chair*, etc.
- 30. Think out loud when you make decisions. Discuss the possible consequences of each option.
- 31. With your child, pretend to be flower seeds curled up and waiting for spring. Then, start "growing."

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