

# 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 • January • February 2024-2025**

## December 2024

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

- 1. Teach your child a new song with a holiday or winter theme.
- 2. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 3. Let your preschooler see you finish a task you have been putting off. Help your child do the same.
- 4. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of festive events in your area. Plan to attend one with your child this month.
- 5. Give your child a piece of plain paper and a piece of sandpaper. Which is *smooth*? Which is *rough*?
- 6. Together, list animals your child loves. If your family could have any animal as a pet, which would your preschooler want to have? Why?
- 7. Mix up several pairs of socks in a pile. Have your child sort the socks into pairs.
- 8. Talk about your child's favorite winter activity. If possible, make plans to do it together.
- 9. At dinner, have family members try holding their noses while eating. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- 10. Create a costume box for your child. Add yard sale treasures such as purses, scarves and shoes.
- 11. When preschool friends come over, have your child greet them at the door and walk them out when they leave.
- 12. Help your child make musical instruments from things around your house. Have a concert.
- 13. Ask your child questions while shopping: "Why do we have to wait in line?" "Why can't we buy everything we want?"
- 14. Visit the library with your child and check out books about winter.
- 15. Help your child form letters out of cooled, cooked spaghetti.
- 16. Take turns telling a story. "There once was a family who lived in a \_\_\_." Your child fills in the blank.
- 17. Have your child dictate a letter to a family member, then decorate it. Mail it together.
- 18. Encourage your child to put on a puppet show for your family.
- 19. Say a word, such as *ball*. Then, ask your child to name another word that begins with the B sound.
- 20. Give your child a hug for no reason other than to show your love.
- 21. Talk with your child about how you divide food. "There are two of us and one apple. I'll cut the apple into *halves*."
- 22. Play catch with your child.
- 23. Help your child repurpose something old into something new today.
- 24. Have a family read-aloud before bedtime tonight.
- 25. Take a family photo. Give your child a copy.
- 26. Go for a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in December.
- 27. Have your child try to act out something instead of using words to tell you about it.
- 28. Expect your child to pick up toys after play time. Turn on some "clean up time" music!
- 29. On rainy or snowy days, get some indoor exercise with your child.
- 30. Hide five pennies in plain sight. Can your child find them all?
- 31. Help your child set a goal for 2025.

# January 2025

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

1. Give your child a new responsibility, such as watering a plant or feeding a pet.
2. Ask your child to complete sentences like, "If I had one wish, it would be ..." or "I'm getting better at ..."
3. Have your child draw or paint a picture of the place where you live.
4. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make that dish today.
5. Ask your preschooler what kinds of work grown-ups do. See how many different jobs your child can name.
6. Plan an indoor campout. Make a tent from a blanket and eat s'mores while you share stories.
7. Show your preschooler a penny, a nickel, a dime and a quarter. Can your child identify each one? If not, review them together.
8. Help your child practice cutting using safety scissors. Show how to cut in a straight line and then in a curve.
9. Say something nice about your preschooler to someone else when your child can hear you.
10. Ask your child to jump like a frog, crawl like a turtle or slither like a snake.
11. Count how long your child can balance standing on one foot. Then, have your preschooler try the other foot.
12. Get two socks. Soak one in water and keep one dry. Let your child tell you which one is heavier. Ask why.
13. Let your child help you organize something, like toys on a shelf.
14. Have your child use blunt-nose tweezers to pick up small items such as pieces of cereal.
15. Teach your child to say "Hello, how are you?" and make eye contact.
16. Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
17. Think of a task you have always helped your child with. Give your preschooler a chance to try doing it independently.
18. How do the trees look today? Talk with your child about how things look different when the trees have no leaves.
19. Ask your child, "What are the three best things about you?"
20. Play an age-appropriate board game with your child.
21. If possible, eat all three meals together as a family today.
22. Trace your child's hand on paper. Together, think of ways to be a helping hand. Write your child's ideas on the drawing.
23. Look through a calendar together and point out special days, such as your child's birthday.
24. Cut straws into different lengths. Encourage your child to line them up *shortest to longest*.
25. Ask your child a question that encourages problem solving: "If we were outside and got cold, what could we do?"
26. Have your child draw a picture of the weather during the morning and another during the afternoon.
27. Visit the library together and check out some books about friendship.
28. Walk together in different ways to different kinds of music—slowly, quickly, lightly, heavily, on tiptoes, etc.
29. Open a fruit that has seeds. Explain that fruit grows from seeds.
30. Offer lots of opportunities for your child choose between two options.
31. With your child, draw and color a picture of birds.

Copyright © 2024 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525

# February 2025

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

1. Encourage your preschooler to describe a song on the radio. Is it fast or slow? Happy or sad? What instruments can your child hear?
2. Talk with your child about families. Who is in your family? What do families do?
3. This is the third of the month. With your child, look everywhere for the number 3 today.
4. Teach your child to be a good sport when playing games—win or lose.
5. Ask your child to name five foods that help people grow and two foods that taste good but are not healthy to eat every day.
6. When you read aloud, pause often to talk about the story. Encourage your child to ask questions.
7. Will your child start kindergarten in the fall? Check with the elementary school to find out how and when to register.
8. Have your preschooler draw a window picture. Your child can draw the window and what is visible through it.
9. Ask your child unusual questions: "What if your hair were made of spaghetti?"
10. Help your child do something nice for someone else today.
11. Cut part of a picture out of a magazine. Paste it on a blank sheet of paper. Ask your child to complete the picture.
12. Together, count your child's fingers and toes.
13. Ask your child to look in a mirror and name facial features (eyes, nose, ears, etc.).
14. Have family members take turns naming one thing they love about each person in your family.
15. Point out a police car, fire truck or ambulance. Explain to your child that people who drive these vehicles are going to help someone.
16. Spring begins next month. Talk about the changes your child will see.
17. Allow your child to invite one or two friends over. Ask each child to bring one book. Read each book to the children.
18. Have a pattern day. Ask your child to notice patterns all around, such as a striped shirt or a flowered sheet.
19. Put uncooked rice or paper clips into plastic containers. Cover tightly. Let your child shake them. Do different items make different sounds?
20. Show your child a picture of a rainbow. Can your child name the colors?
21. Have your child count to five. If this is easy, keep going to 10 or 20.
22. When you do errands together, give your child responsibility for carrying something into the house.
23. Show your child how to "sew" by stringing yarn through holes punched in cardboard.
24. Discuss the meaning of *today*, *yesterday* and *tomorrow* with your child.
25. Read three poems or rhymes with your child today.
26. As you read a story, say, "This is the beginning." "This is the middle." And, "This is the end."
27. Model polite table manners for your child. Say "Please pass the ..." and "Thank you very much."
28. Ask your child to give you a news report about today's activities. What's the lead story?

Copyright © 2024 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525