

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Cornbelt Educational Cooperative



THE  
**PARENT**  
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## June 2024

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

- 1. At dinner, have family members share things that made them happy during the day.
- 2. Give your child tickets worth 30 minutes of screen time. Unused tickets may be cashed in for treats.
- 3. Trace your child's hand on paper. Cut out the tracing and cover it with clear self-stick paper to make a bookmark.
- 4. Let your child see you keep your temper when you are upset. Instead of yelling, talk calmly about how you feel.
- 5. Brainstorm with your child. "How many different animals can we name?"
- 6. Put various objects on a tray. Have your child look at them, then take the tray away. How many items can your preschooler remember?
- 7. While setting the table, add something that shouldn't be there. Ask your child what doesn't belong.
- 8. Together, find out what's inside a seed. Soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coat and pull the halves apart.
- 9. Show your child a detailed picture. Ask, "Can you name what you see?"
- 10. Dim the lights and slowly move the beam of a flashlight across the floor. Ask your child to jump on the beam.
- 11. Ask your child to complete this sentence: "Something I'm getting better at is ..."
- 12. Help your child do something nice for someone else today.
- 13. Ask your child to think of a different ending to a favorite story.
- 14. Show your child a picture of a rainbow. Can your preschooler name all the colors?
- 15. Make a reading tent together. Throw a blanket over a table. Put in some pillows and books to create a cozy spot for enjoying books.
- 16. Make a puzzle with your child. Glue a picture onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle shapes.
- 17. Let your child help you make a chore chart. Family members can check off jobs as they finish them.
- 18. Play I Spy. "I spy something red." Let your child guess what it is. Then it's your preschooler's turn to "spy" something.
- 19. Teach your child a new song today.
- 20. On a sunny day, stand on a sidewalk with your child and trace your shadows with chalk.
- 21. When your child makes a mistake, say, "That's OK. We all make mistakes. How can we fix it?"
- 22. Start a family scrapbook. Collect souvenirs, photos and other mementos. Look through it together often.
- 23. Teach your child a nursery rhyme.
- 24. Help your child make a card for a family member. Your preschooler can draw on the front, and you can write on the inside.
- 25. Print your child's name on paper with glue. Have your preschooler glue yarn to the letters. Talk about them and the sounds they make.
- 26. Talk about summer and what the weather is like. What activities can your child do in the summer?
- 27. Tell your child a story about something you did in the summer when you were a small child.
- 28. Ask your child to help you with a household task today. Remember to say *thank you*.
- 29. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book about horses.
- 30. Help your child plant seeds in a container or in your yard.

# July 2024

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- 1. Visit a greenhouse or nursery. Help your child pick out a favorite plant and learn more about how it grows.
- 2. Work on balance today. Have your child walk backward, then stand on one foot, and then walk in a straight line.
- 3. Ask your child to touch different fabrics—such as velvet, terry cloth, burlap and corduroy—and describe how they feel.
- 4. Talk about meaning of the word *independence* with your child today.
- 5. Cut up an apple and remove all the seeds. Count the seeds with your child. Then, enjoy eating the apple together.
- 6. Go outside with your child. Dip your feet in some water and make footprints on the sidewalk. How long do the footprints take to dry?
- 7. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 8. Does your child need a physical for school? Make an appointment.
- 9. Look for the number 9 with your child everywhere you go today.
- 10. Cut out several shapes from heavy paper. Have your child glue them together in a pattern to make a “quilt.”
- 11. Teach your child to care for others. If a friend falls down, encourage your child to say, “Are you OK? Can I help you?”
- 12. Will you be traveling with your child this summer? Don’t forget to bring along some audiobooks.
- 13. Build a tower together with marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti.
- 14. Have a summer reading picnic! Spread a blanket and enjoy an outdoor meal with your child, then relax and read together.
- 15. Hide an object and give your child clues to find it. Say *warm* or *hot* as your child nears it, and *cool* or *cold* as your child moves away from it.
- 16. Give your child some positive feedback: “That’s a great idea!”
- 17. Pour salt onto a cookie sheet. Let your child practice writing letters with a finger in the salt.
- 18. Give your child opportunities to make choices. “Will you wear the blue shirt or the white shirt today?”
- 19. Challenge your child to make a noise like a truck.
- 20. Freeze fruit juices in ice cube trays to make popsicles. Enjoy them with your child.
- 21. Fill a squirt bottle with water. Let your child spray it outside. It will help build the finger muscles needed for writing.
- 22. Go for a bug hunt outside. How many different kinds can your child find? Which is the biggest? The smallest?
- 23. Watch the sun rise with your child. Then, have breakfast together.
- 24. Help your child measure something with a ruler. Count the inches together.
- 25. Show that you care when your child is upset. Offer a hug, then encourage your child to use words to tell you what is wrong.
- 26. Draw your child’s attention to respectful behavior when you see it, in life and in books and videos.
- 27. Talk about the things you are doing as your preschooler watches you.
- 28. Look for a free concert or play you can attend with your family.
- 29. Ask your child, “What part of a plant grows downward?” (*roots*).
- 30. Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- 31. Play a game with your child today. It can be an active outdoor game or a quiet board game.

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# August 2024

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- 1. Cut yellow triangles and a brown circle out of construction paper. Ask your child to glue the triangles *around* the circle to make a sunflower.
- 2. Get a bucket of water and a paint brush. Encourage your child to “paint” letters and numbers on the sidewalk.
- 3. When your child takes a bath, put in a plastic pitcher and cup. Together, count the number of cups of water it takes to fill the pitcher.
- 4. Write your child a message in a secret code. Draw an eye, then a heart, then the letter U.
- 5. Set up a ball toss. Let your child practice tossing a ball into buckets of various sizes. Gradually increase the distance.
- 6. Challenge your child to draw an upside-down picture today.
- 7. Use a deck of cards to help your child practice sorting. Your preschooler can sort by color, shape or number.
- 8. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make that dish today.
- 9. Help your child practice self-care. Kindergartners need to be able to use the restroom, wash hands and manage clothing by themselves.
- 10. Visit a playground. Encourage your child to swing, climb and slide.
- 11. Offer praise for something your child did well today.
- 12. Discuss a shared memory with your child. “Remember when we flew a kite? We ran fast to make the kite fly high. What color was our kite?”
- 13. While reading a story, stop and ask what your child thinks will happen next.
- 14. When your child does a chore, talk about how good it feels to complete a necessary task.
- 15. Help your child pick out some school supplies.
- 16. Eat outside tonight! Let your child choose at least one menu item.
- 17. Help your child cut out pictures of fruit from magazines or ads. Let your preschooler glue them on paper to create a funny fruit face.
- 18. Get a pot and spoon and have your child pretend to be on a cooking show. Say, “Can you show and tell the audience what to do?”
- 19. Take a family selfie. Give your child a copy.
- 20. Make bubble solution with 1/8 cup of dishwashing liquid and one cup of water. Who can make the biggest bubble?
- 21. Have your child string uncooked pasta tubes on a piece of yarn.
- 22. Ask your child to guess how long it will take to jump up and down 50 times. Time it and see.
- 23. Ask your child to name places where water is found (*lakes, rivers, etc.*).
- 24. Books that win the Caldecott medal have great illustrations. Help your child find one at the library.
- 25. Use math words to describe actions. “I’m *adding* the milk to the cereal.” “Let’s *divide* this cookie so we can share it.”
- 26. Boost attention span by asking your child to return to activities. “After you have had your snack, you can finish coloring your picture.”
- 27. Point out behavior cues to your child. “See your sister working? When we’re quiet, she can concentrate.”
- 28. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
- 29. Help your child turn a large cardboard box into a pretend car.
- 30. Tell your child that fall is coming. Talk about things to expect, such as cooler weather and autumn colors.
- 31. Let your child play teacher. After your preschooler learns a new skill, say “Now it’s your turn to teach me. How do you do that?”

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