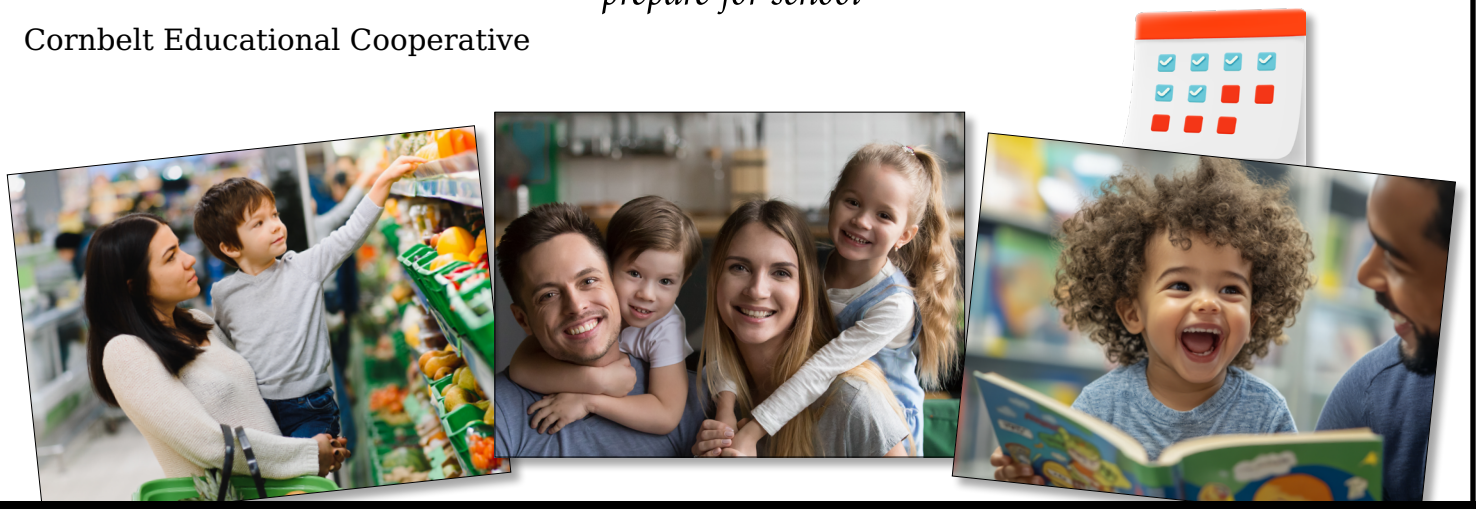
Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children prepare for school

Cornbelt Educational Cooperative



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. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of festive events in your community. Plan to attend one as a family this month.
2. Set out a variety of household objects and ask your child to sort them by color or size.
3. Ask your child questions about the uses for common items. What is a broom for? What do we do with paper clips?
4. Play seasonal music that you like. Sing along with your child.
5. Bake a big batch of cookies with your child. Together, deliver them to neighbors and friends.
6. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in December.
7. Get a roll of plain white wrapping paper. Ask your child to use crayons to decorate it.
8. Give your child some extra bath time. Supervise while your preschooler plays in the water with plastic pitchers, cups and spoons.
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. Have a family photo taken. Give your child a copy.
11. Hang a calendar where your child can see it. Each morning, let your child mark the day with a smiley face.
12. At the library, help your child check out a book about different holidays people celebrate around the world.
13. Ask your child to think of a different ending to a favorite story.
14. Help your child practice using a phone. Call a friend or relative.
15. Play a game of Follow the Leader with your child. Take turns *leading* and *following* and talk about what these words mean.
16. Find materials you and your child can use to make seasonal decorations.
17. Use cotton balls to have an indoor "snowball fight" with your child.
18. Ask your child, "What fun thing have we done that you think we should make a family tradition?" If possible, start it!
19. If your family will be traveling this month, pack a bag of toys to keep your child entertained. Dole them out one by one.
20. Engage in pretend play with your child. Have your preschooler imagine being a snowman.
21. Encourage independence. Store cups in a low place and establish guidelines your child can follow to get a drink of water without help.
22. Try a new fruit with your child today.
23. With your child, look for the number 4 everywhere you go today.
24. Ask your child to draw a picture of today's weather.
25. Give your child a coupon good for for one special activity with you during winter break next week.
26. Make a collage together out of gift wrap or greeting cards today.
27. Pretend together. Play School with your child. Take turns being the teacher.
28. Have a hat day. Wear different hats throughout the day today. Pretend to be someone new each time you change hats.
29. Write instructions on pieces of paper, such as "hop on one foot." Take turns drawing them out of a hat and following them.
30. Spend some "floor time" with your child today. Make a block tower.
31. Talk with your child about favorite things you each remember from the past year.

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