

# Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children  
prepare for school

Cornbelt Educational Cooperative



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## January 2024

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

- 1. Make a list with your child of three fun things to do or try in 2024. Save the list and refer to it.
- 2. Show your child how to make paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.
- 3. Ask your child to describe a happy family memory.
- 4. Set out pots and lids of different sizes. Ask your child to put the matching lid on each pot.
- 5. Go through grocery store ads with your child and cut out pictures of healthy foods. Make a collage with the pictures.
- 6. Talk about your child's favorite winter activity; if possible, do it together.
- 7. Notice your preschooler's good behavior today. Remember to make your praise as specific as possible.
- 8. Let your child draw on paper towels with washable markers. Spray the towels with water. Watch the colors blend!
- 9. Clap your hands in specific patterns, such as four times quickly. Can your child do the same?
- 10. Talk to your child about honesty and why it is so important. Point out examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- 11. Visit a bakery. Share a treat with your child and take turns thinking of words to describe it, such as *sweet* and *scrumptious*.
- 12. Play school with your child.
- 13. Discuss the meaning of a *dozen* and *half a dozen*. Ask your child, "What things do we buy by the dozen?"
- 14. Help your child name each of the five senses. How do people use them?
- 15. Make a meal of shapes. Banana slices are circles, a sandwich cut diagonally makes triangles. Name the shapes with your child.
- 16. Expect your child to pick up toys after play time. Turn on some clean-up time music.
- 17. Pick an object, such as a toy. Ask your child to find something *bigger* than the toy and something *smaller*.
- 18. Assign your child a special job. It's never too early to learn responsibility.
- 19. Teach your child *positional* words, such as *under*, *over*, *behind* and *beside*.
- 20. Write a letter of the alphabet. Think of things that begin with that letter and have your child draw some of them.
- 21. Make cookies together in the shapes of letters and numbers.
- 22. Help your child make musical instruments from things around your house. Have a concert.
- 23. Put together a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 24. Teach family members a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.
- 25. At bath time, teach your child how to blow bubbles in the water.
- 26. Have your child look through newspapers, junk mail and catalogs to find pictures of different forms of transportation.
- 27. Have a picnic inside. Ask your child to name the items for your picnic as you place them in a basket.
- 28. Give your child five coupons, each good for one hour of your undivided attention.
- 29. Ask your child to think of words that describe winter.
- 30. Choose a book with lots of pictures. Instead of reading it, have your child tell you the story based on the illustrations.
- 31. Ask your child to use finger puppets to retell a story.