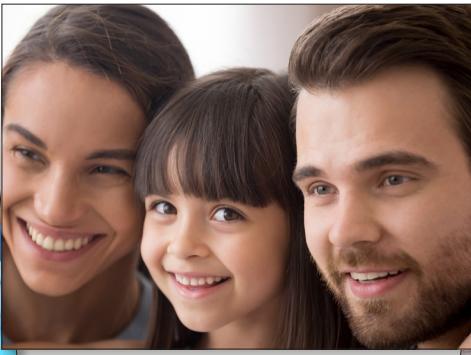


Daily Learning Planner

*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. This is the *first* day of the year. Discuss the meaning of *first*. For example, breakfast is the *first* meal of the day.
- 2. Make a list of the best times you had with your child last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do some of them again this year.
- 3. As a family, brainstorm three new things to do or try this year.
- 4. Draw a face on each of your child's index fingers with washable marker. Ask your preschooler to retell a story with puppet fingers.
- 5. Choose a special place to display your child's artwork.
- 6. Talk with your child about *honesty* and why it is so important. Find examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- 7. Ask your child questions about the uses for common items. What is a broom for? What do we do with spoons?
- 8. Wrap masking tape sticky-side out around your child's fingers. Let your child use the "sticky hand" to pick up small, light objects.
- 9. Help your child make musical instruments from household items.
- 10. Celebrate your child's accomplishments with a "can-do" list. "Jordan can: run, count to 10, zip a coat..." Post the list.
- 11. "Catch" your child behaving well today. Offer specific praise.
- 12. Look outside together at least three times during the day and describe the weather with words such as *sunny*, *cloudy*, *snowy* or *rainy*.
- 13. Let your child use blunt-nosed tweezers to pick up small items. This builds muscles needed for writing.
- 14. Show your preschooler a new shape today. If your child knows the basics, introduce a *hexagon* (six sides) or *octagon* (eight sides).
- 15. Give your child three pictures that show different steps in a process. Ask, "Which came first, second, last?"

- 16. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- 17. Hide a treat in your home and place clues for finding it. Each clue should be a picture showing where your child will find the next clue.
- 18. Exercise with your child. Try touching your toes, doing sit-ups, running in place or stretching your arms and legs.
- 19. Ask your child, "What if your hair were made of spaghetti?"
- 20. Imitate an animal and ask your child to guess what you are pretending to be. Give hints if necessary.
- 21. Have your child look through books, magazines or junk mail to find pictures of different forms of transportation.
- 22. Talk together about things we do with our bodies, such as walk, eat, wave, smell, throw. Which body parts do we use for these actions?
- 23. Read your child a story that rhymes.
- 24. Help your child to look at a familiar thing in a new way. A shoebox can be a garage for toy cars; a cereal box can be a stage for dolls.
- 25. Have a screen-free night. Put on some music and get moving instead.
- 26. Paste a drawing on cardboard. Punch holes around the edge. Have your child thread a shoelace through the holes.
- 27. Ask your child's advice about something. If possible, follow the advice.
- 28. Talk about winter with your child. Make a list of things that are cold.
- 29. Write down questions your child asks that you don't know the answer to. Together, look for answers online or at the library.
- 30. Try a "new" food with your child.
- 31. Does your child need new books? Plan a neighborhood book swap.