

# 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. Ask your child to tell you a story from an animal's point of view.
2. Send your child a message through the mail.
3. Tell your child about using *inside* and *outside* voices. Inside voices are quiet. Outside voices can be louder.
4. Let your child press items into clay or play dough to make impressions.
5. Look at the public library's calendar of events and choose one to attend.
6. With your child, take turns naming things you love about each other.
7. Challenge your child to toss rolled-up socks into a basket. Say, "In!" when a sock lands inside.
8. Encourage your child to try two motor tasks at the same time—for example, waving hands while jumping.
9. Read a favorite book as many times as your child wants.
10. When April brings showers, teach your child some rainy day words, such as *drizzle* and *umbrella*.
11. Have a spring clean-up day. Choose a room and have your child help you clean it.
12. Help your child make a telescope out of paper towel tubes taped together. What does your preschooler notice when looking through it?
13. Let your child practice buttoning a shirt or zipping a zipper.
14. Encourage your child to think of an imaginary land. Together, name it and make up a story about it.
15. Ask your child to paint a picture of a favorite holiday.
16. Talk about the differences between night and day. Have your child draw a night picture and a day picture.
17. Go outside and blow bubbles. See if your child can catch one without breaking it.
18. Read a book to your child. Explain the meanings of three unfamiliar words. Together, try to use the words today as many times as you can.
19. Encourage your child to try a new self-care skill today—putting on shoes independently, for example.
20. Play the I Spy game. Say "I spy something yellow." Let your child guess what it is. Then it's your child's turn to spy something.
21. Take a tour of your neighborhood with your child. Discuss the landmarks you see.
22. With your child, learn to say hello in two other languages.
23. Ask your child, "What happens when we drop something?" (*it falls*) Explain that the Earth pulls things to itself with a force called *gravity*.
24. Have a pretend phone conversation with your child about what you did yesterday and things you will do tomorrow.
25. Use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures and letters outside with your child.
26. Take turns choosing a big word, like *thunderstorm*. Together, clap once for each syllable (*thun-der-storm*). Ask, "How many times did we clap?"
27. Take a walk together. Instead of walking, skip, hop, jump and run.
28. Put pillows on the floor and get cozy and read with your child.
29. Talk together about things that are associated with spring, such as flowers, picnics and sunshine.
30. After a bath, let your child make wet footprints on colored construction paper. What do they look like?