

# 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. Make a height chart for your child. Measure your preschooler's height each month and point out how it changes.
- 2. Play a game of What am I? together. Say, "I am big and grey. I have a long trunk and I live in Africa. What am I?"
- 3. Make a puzzle. Glue cardboard to the back of a picture. Cut it into six or eight pieces. Help your child put it back together.
- 4. Let your child pick out some school supplies today.
- 5. Make a pattern by alternating apple and banana slices on a plate. Can your child predict what will come next?
- 6. Read a book to your child before each meal and before bedtime today.
- 7. With your child, learn to count to five in another language.
- 8. Reinforce manners today. Remind family members to say *please*, *excuse me* and *thank you*.
- 9. Help your child experiment with mixing colors by squeezing drops of food coloring into cups of water.
- 10. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 11. Help your child spot and identify different shapes around the house.
- 12. Place some light and heavy objects on the floor. Have your child blow on them. Which items blow away? Talk about why.
- 13. September is Library Card Month. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card.
- 14. Discuss a few weather changes that take place in the fall. (Days are colder and shorter.)
- 15. Watch a children's show with your child. Talk about the characters' personalities and behavior.
- 16. Praise your child for doing something well today. Make your praise as specific as possible.
- 17. Look around your house together for different textures. Can your child find something slippery? Scratchy? Fuzzy?
- 18. Encourage independence. Establish rules and guidelines for tasks your child can do without your help, such as getting a drink of water.
- 19. Have your child practice following three-step directions. "Go to the kitchen. Get a spoon from the drawer. Bring it to me."
- 20. Challenge family members to write or do other activities with the hand they don't normally use.
- 21. Make up a song featuring your child's name. Sing it together.
- 22. When your child is unsuccessful with a task, ask, "How could you do it differently next time?"
- 23. Look through a calendar. Point out some special days, such as your child's birthday.
- 24. Together, practice saying your child's street address. Go outside and look at the number.
- 25. Line up chairs like a train. Ask your child to crawl *under* them, *around* them and *on* them.
- 26. Read three poems with your child today.
- 27. Place spare materials—such as scraps of fabric, tissue paper and ribbons—in a box. Let your child use them to make art.
- 28. Bounce a ball once and say *one*. Bounce it twice and say *one, two*. Encourage your child to try. How high can your preschooler count?
- 29. Say a simple word. Can your child think of words that rhyme with it?
- 30. Play a game of Follow the Leader. Take turns *leading* and *following*.