

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
prepare for school.*

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THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Teach your child what to do in case of a fire. Ask a local fire department for tips.
- 2. Make a list with your child of three fun things to do or try during the next year. Save the list and refer to it.
- 3. Ask your child to describe a happy family memory.
- 4. Engage in pretend play with your child. Imagine you are ice skating.
- 5. Go through old magazines with your child and cut out pictures of healthy foods. Make a collage with the pictures.
- 6. Wrap masking tape sticky-side out around your child's fingers. Let him use his "sticky hand" to pick up light objects.
- 7. Gather all your child's stuffed animals. Have her sort them by size.
- 8. Give your child a folded paper napkin. Help him cut designs into the folded edges. Open it up to see a paper snowflake.
- 9. Have your child copy how you clap your hands. If you clap four times quickly, for example, she should, too.
- 10. To eliminate dawdling, set a timer when it's time for your child to pick up toys.
- 11. Put a toy in an empty box. Ask your child to feel the toy without looking. Can he guess what it is?
- 12. Notice your child's good behavior today. Remember to make your praise as specific as possible.
- 13. Help your child write and send a letter or email to a friend.
- 14. Visit a bakery. Share a treat and think of words to describe it, such as *sweet* and *scrumptious*.
- 15. Make a meal of shapes. Banana slices are circles, a sandwich cut diagonally makes triangles. Name the shapes with your child.
- 16. Show your child a pattern by alternating carrot and celery sticks. Can she tell which will come next?
- 17. Pick an object, such as a toy truck. Ask your child to find something *bigger* than the truck and something *smaller*.
- 18. Today, talk with your child about things he can do all by himself!
- 19. Teach your child "concept" words, such as *warm*, *cold*, *under* and *over*.
- 20. Start a collection with your child.
- 21. Make cookies in the shapes of letters and numbers.
- 22. If possible, lower the clothes rod in your child's closet so she can hang up her own clothes.
- 23. Put together a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 24. Together, count your fingers and toes.
- 25. Discuss ways animals help us. Cows give us milk. Sheep give us wool.
- 26. At bath time, ask your child to blow bubbles in the water.
- 27. Have a picnic inside. Ask your child to name the items for your picnic as you place them in a basket.
- 28. Discuss the meaning of a *dozen* and *half a dozen*. Ask your child, "What things do we buy by the dozen?"
- 29. Show your child a new shape today.
- 30. Have your child draw a winter scene using white chalk on black paper.
- 31. Ask your child to use finger puppets to retell a story.



Helping Children Learn
TIPS Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

