

# 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. When you don't know the answer to one of your child's questions, plan a trip to the library to find it.
- 2. Talk with your child about *happy* feelings and *sad* feelings. What things can cause each kind of feeling?
- 3. Draw faces on your fingers and have a puppet show with your child.
- 4. Help your child form numbers out of cold, cooked spaghetti.
- 5. "Catch" your child behaving well.
- 6. Go outside with your child and watch as the wind moves through the trees and bushes. What sound does the wind make?
- 7. Take a tour of your neighborhood with your child.
- 8. Cut the tops off of three carrots. Place the tops in a dish with one half-cup of water. Water daily. Help your child measure as the tops grow.
- 9. With your child, look for people who are laughing today.
- 10. Play the "last word" game. Say, "A fire is *hot*, but ice is \_\_\_." Your child fills in the last word.
- 11. Does your local library have a story hour for preschoolers? Take your child to the next session.
- 12. Teach your child how to do a sit-up. Time him to see how many he can do in one minute.
- 13. Go on a triangle hunt with your child. How many can she find?
- 14. Write your child a message in a secret code. Draw an eye, then a heart and then the letter U.
- 15. Cut animal ears out of cardboard. Attach them to a strip of paper that fits around your child's head. Have him pretend to be the animal.
- 16. Set out different sizes of pots and lids. Ask your child to put lids on the matching pots.
- 17. Explain the concepts of *today*, *tomorrow* and *yesterday* to your child.
- 18. Let your child decorate a paper lunch bag using crayons. Attach a long string to the bottom of the bag to make a kite.
- 19. Help your child practice buttoning a shirt or zipping a zipper.
- 20. Remove three items from your purse or pocket. Show them to your child. Then, put them away. Can she name them?
- 21. Cut out the shape of a bird. Let your child glue paper feathers on it.
- 22. Spend some time coloring with your child.
- 23. Show your child a new shape today. If he already knows the basics, introduce a hexagon or octagon.
- 24. Ask your child to make up a story and tell it to you.
- 25. Take your child to the library. Check out a book about plants.
- 26. Get some outdoor exercise with your child today.
- 27. Cut sponges into many shapes. Let your child dip them into different colors of paint and press them on paper for fun designs.
- 28. Go on a walk with your child. Count the birds, dogs or cats you see.
- 29. Go on a grocery store scavenger hunt. Ask your child to find a fruit, something yellow and a very large item.
- 30. Ask your child questions that require more than *yes* or *no* answers, such as "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- 31. Read your child a story that rhymes.



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Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School