

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. Ask your child to help you sort the laundry.
- 2. Look at photos of relatives who live far away. If possible, give them a call and let your child talk for a minute.
- 3. Draw a stick-figure person. Leave off a body part. Can your child guess what's missing?
- 4. Teach your child the saying "April showers bring May flowers."
- 5. Take your child outside for a "listening minute." Each of you close your eyes and try to name the sounds you hear.
- 6. Spread cream cheese on a piece of bread. Help your child use alphabet cereal to spell words on her sandwich.
- 7. Teach your child to say, "I'm glad to meet you" when introduced to a new person.
- 8. Find a book about butterflies and read it to your child.
- 9. Practice walking sideways today with your child.
- 10. Say, "I'd love to!" when your child asks you to play, read or do a puzzle with him today.
- 11. Go "bowling" with your child. Set up cardboard toilet paper tubes in a hallway and use a ball to knock them down.
- 12. Model good listening. When your child is talking, don't interrupt.
- 13. Gather all your child's stuffed animals. Ask her to sort them by size.
- 14. Encourage your child to use adjectives. Say, "Sugar is ____." Supply the word "sweet" if needed.
- 15. Have a spring clean-up day. Choose a room and have your child help you clean it.
- 16. Plan a treasure hunt for your child. Draw a picture of where to find the next clue. Hide a special treat at the end.
- 17. Say a word such as "ball." See if your child can name another word that begins with the same sound.
- 18. Make up a story together. It can be about either real or pretend things.
- 19. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you.
- 20. Fill a low shelf or drawer with safe toys and books for your child. Label it with her name.
- 21. Help your child spread peanut butter on a bagel and roll it in birdseed. Hang it from a tree for a bird feeder.
- 22. Talk with your child about playground safety rules, such as taking turns on the slide.
- 23. Talk about the parts of plants. Point out *leaves*, *stems* and *roots*.
- 24. Give your child crayons and a large sheet of paper. Put on some favorite music. Have your child draw or scribble to the music.
- 25. Give your child three sincere compliments today.
- 26. What was your favorite book as a young child? Read that book to your child today.
- 27. Help your child prepare a healthy snack. Mix small finger foods: whole-grain cereal, raisins, pretzels and nuts.
- 28. Help your child count his fingers and toes.
- 29. Go outside with your child. Challenge her to find three specific items (leaf, grass, pine cone, etc.).
- 30. Sing a favorite song with your child today.



Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

