

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. At dinner, have family members share things that made them happy during the day.
- 2. Ask your child to complete sentences like: "If I had one wish, it would be ..." or, "Something I'm getting better at is ..."
- 3. Trace your child's hand on paper. Cut out the tracing and cover it with clear contact paper to make a bookmark.
- 4. Make finger puppets by cutting the fingers off old gloves. Draw on faces and glue on yarn for hair. With your child, use them to act out a story.
- 5. Let your child help you collect the trash. He can empty wastebaskets into a trash bag that you are holding.
- 6. Look in a magazine for images of three objects your child is familiar with. Then, ask her to find them and circle them.
- 7. While setting the table, add something that shouldn't be there. Ask your child what doesn't belong.
- 8. Ask your child to think of a different ending to a favorite story.
- 9. Show your child a detailed picture. Ask him to name what he sees.
- 10. Talk about time with your child. Say, "It's morning, so we'll have breakfast. We'll nap in the afternoon."
- 11. Blow bubbles with your child today. See who can catch the most.
- 12. Teach your child a social skill. For example, say, "Before you pick up the book, ask Mary if she has finished reading it."
- 13. Make plans for a special parent-child day.
- 14. Encourage your child to play with blocks. Besides being fun, it helps him learn about shapes, patterns and colors.
- 15. Make a "tent" for your child. Throw a blanket over a table. Put in some pillows and books to create a cozy spot for reading together.
- 16. Write your child a note that says how much you love her. Put it on her plate or pillow. When she finds it, read it to her.
- 17. After reading a story, ask your child what he thinks would happen next.
- 18. Help your child build things using toothpicks and marshmallows.
- 19. Teach your child a song today.
- 20. Tell your child a story about something you did in the summer when you were a small child.
- 21. When your child makes a mistake, say, "That's OK. We all make mistakes. How can we fix it?"
- 22. Get your child a library card if she doesn't have one.
- 23. Teach your child a nursery rhyme.
- 24. Have a reading picnic. Let your child choose food and books to bring.
- 25. Print your child's name on paper with glue. Have him glue yarn to the letters.
- 26. Brainstorm with your child. "How many different animals can we name?"
- 27. Suggest your child make a card for a friend or relative.
- 28. Fill a squirt bottle with water. Let your child spray it outside. It will help build the finger muscles needed for writing.
- 29. Help your child plant seeds in a container or in your yard.
- 30. Make this a No TV Night. Read or play games together instead.



Helping Children Learn
EARLY CHILDHOOD
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School