

# 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. Teach your child appropriate ways to deal with anger. It's OK to say "I'm angry" or "I feel upset when you do that," but it's never OK to hit.
- 2. Share something of yours with your child today. It's the best way to teach children to share with others!
- 3. Talk about *more*, *less* and *equal* with your child. Ask, "Do you have more socks or more shirts?"
- 4. Ask your child, "Have you ever had a dream that scared you? What was it about?"
- 5. Practice rhyming. Ask your child to think of a word with the same ending sound as *pie* (sky) or *fan* (man).
- 6. Does your child need some new books? Try hosting a neighborhood book swap.
- 7. Give your child a file folder to save special cards and photos. This encourages caring for important things.
- 8. Talk about where animals live. Which animals would your child expect to see in the ocean? How about in the park?
- 9. Help your child round up some friends and play a game outside.
- 10. At dinner, ask family members to share something they have learned.
- 11. Bat a balloon with your child and see how long you can keep it aloft.
- 12. Help your child make a bookmark. Decorate construction paper. Cover it with clear tape.
- 13. Whenever possible, say "I'd love to" when your child asks you to play.
- 14. Encourage your child to try two motor tasks at the same time—for example, clapping hands while walking.
- 15. This is the middle of the month. Talk with your child about what *middle* means.
- 16. Dim the lights and move the beam of a flashlight across the floor. Ask your child to jump or step on the beam.
- 17. Cuddle up with your child and read a story.
- 18. Tap out a simple rhythm with household instruments, such as spoons. See if your child can copy it.
- 19. Help your child make a texture painting by sprinkling glitter, oatmeal or sand on wet finger paint.
- 20. Play I Spy. Say "I spy something orange." Let your child guess what it is. Then it's your preschooler's turn to spy something.
- 21. Say a word. Can your child can tell you its opposite?
- 22. Put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. Tell your child to watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- 23. Explain what a hero is. Tell your child who some of your heroes are and why.
- 24. Visit a bakery with your child. Share a treat and think of words to describe it, such as *delectable*.
- 25. Glue pictures to sheets of paper. Cut each sheet in half horizontally and mix up the halves. Can your child match a top to each bottom?
- 26. Start a made-up story. "A cat ran out of the house and went to the ... ." Let your child finish the story.
- 27. Talk about birthdays. Review your child's birth date. Also teach your preschooler the birth dates of family members and close friends.
- 28. Ask family members to talk about things they are thankful for.
- 29. Teach your child some baby animal names: *calf*, *foal*, *cub*, *kid*.
- 30. Visit a local museum or historic site with your child today.