

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. Encourage your preschooler to describe a song on the radio. Is it fast or slow? Happy or sad? What instruments can your child hear?
- 2. Talk with your child about families. Who is in your family? What do families do?
- 3. This is the third of the month. With your child, look everywhere for the number 3 today.
- 4. Teach your child to be a good sport when playing games—win or lose.
- 5. Ask your child to name five foods that help people grow and two foods that taste good but are not healthy to eat every day.
- 6. When you read aloud, pause often to talk about the story. Encourage your child to ask questions.
- 7. Will your child start kindergarten in the fall? Check with the elementary school to find out how and when to register.
- 8. Have your preschooler draw a window picture. Your child can draw the window and what is visible through it.
- 9. Ask your child unusual questions: "What if your hair were made of spaghetti?"
- 10. Help your child do something nice for someone else today.
- 11. Cut part of a picture out of a magazine. Paste it on a blank sheet of paper. Ask your child to complete the picture.
- 12. Together, count your child's fingers and toes.
- 13. Ask your child to look in a mirror and name facial features (eyes, nose, ears, etc.).
- 14. Have family members take turns naming one thing they love about each person in your family.
- 15. Point out a police car, fire truck or ambulance. Explain to your child that people who drive these vehicles are going to help someone.
- 16. Spring begins next month. Talk about the changes your child will see.
- 17. Allow your child to invite one or two friends over. Ask each child to bring one book. Read each book to the children.
- 18. Have a pattern day. Ask your child to notice patterns all around, such as a striped shirt or a flowered sheet.
- 19. Put uncooked rice or paper clips into plastic containers. Cover tightly. Let your child shake them. Do different items make different sounds?
- 20. Show your child a picture of a rainbow. Can your child name the colors?
- 21. Have your child count to five. If this is easy, keep going to 10 or 20.
- 22. When you do errands together, give your child responsibility for carrying something into the house.
- 23. Show your child how to "sew" by stringing yarn through holes punched in cardboard.
- 24. Discuss the meaning of *today*, *yesterday* and *tomorrow* with your child.
- 25. Read three poems or rhymes with your child today.
- 26. As you read a story, say, "This is the beginning." "This is the middle." And, "This is the end."
- 27. Model polite table manners for your child. Say "Please pass the ..." and "Thank you very much."
- 28. Ask your child to give you a news report about today's activities. What's the lead story?