

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school*

Prince Edward County Elementary School
Dr. Julie Gilliam, Dir. of Instruction



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2018

September 2018

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Point out all the ways your family uses writing throughout the day.
- 2. Have a “goodbye to summer” picnic today. Talk with your child about the great times you had together over the summer.
- 3. Provide your child with access to basic reference materials when she studies—an atlas, a dictionary, a thesaurus, in book form or online.
- 4. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
- 5. Choose a place for items that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each evening.
- 6. Write your child's name vertically. Have him use each letter in his name to begin a line of a poem.
- 7. Use math to give your child instructions. For example, ask her to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
- 8. September is Library Card Month. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card.
- 9. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps he'll take to reach it. Post his goal in a visible spot.
- 10. Each evening, ask your child specific questions about school that day.
- 11. Have your child use shoe boxes to create a mailbox for each family member. Use them to send one another notes and reminders.
- 12. Watch the news as a family. Locate one place mentioned on a map.
- 13. Make sure you and your child know the school rules. Post them on your refrigerator.
- 14. Adjust bedtimes tonight so everyone has time to read in bed.
- 15. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
- 16. Talk with your child about the week ahead. Do this every Sunday.
- 17. If your child is watching TV, ask her to turn off the sound and create her own story to go with the images.
- 18. Review your child's homework each day. Give compliments and helpful suggestions, but don't insist that he redo the work.
- 19. Make an emergency reading kit for your child to have in the car.
- 20. Look through job listings with your child. What job would she want?
- 21. Plan a family meeting to discuss a decision you can make together.
- 22. Have your child write a letter or email to a friend or relative telling about the beginning of his school year.
- 23. Challenge your child to find as many types of punctuation as she can.
- 24. Help your child find his best time to do homework. Some kids do better right after school, others after dinner.
- 25. Take an imaginary underwater trip with your child. What would your vessel look like? Where would you go?
- 26. Give family members marshmallows and toothpicks. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 27. Help your child organize her room.
- 28. Give your child a hug today and every day.
- 29. Tonight, allow a few minutes after the light is off for a quiet chat with your child.
- 30. Have dinner by candlelight tonight.

Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



October 2018

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Review your list of emergency contacts with your child.
- 2. Have a family Geography Challenge. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- 3. Have your child estimate the number of socks in his drawer, then count to find out the exact number.
- 4. Choose a Word of the Day. Have family members use it in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
- 5. Talk about books you loved when you were your child's age.
- 6. Together, find out what's inside a seed. Soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coat and pull the halves apart.
- 7. At dinner, put a price on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the cost of the meal.
- 8. Today is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Review your family plan in case of a fire in your home.
- 9. Let your child quiz you about things she is learning in school.
- 10. See how many words you and your child can make from the letters in OCTOBER.
- 11. Compliment your child's efforts on something today.
- 12. Cut out pictures of people from the newspaper or magazines. Ask your child to make up a story about each person.
- 13. Think of a skill you and your child would like to learn, such as knitting. Check out a how-to book to read together.
- 14. Make a leaf rubbing. Place a leaf on paper. Cover it with a sheet of thin paper and have your child rub over the leaf with a crayon.
- 15. Have your child turn a news article headline into a question. Then, read the article together. Does it answer the question?

- 16. Read a book that you and your child can both enjoy.
- 17. Write an encouraging note and tuck it into your child's backpack.
- 18. Challenge family members: Who can name the most parts of the body?
- 19. Bake cookies with your child. Help her figure out how much of each ingredient you would need if you doubled the recipe.
- 20. Spend some one-on-one time with your child today.
- 21. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you. Tell him something you love about him.
- 22. Encourage your child to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.
- 23. Limit TV time. Use the TV listings to help your child plan her viewing.
- 24. Have your child rub two stones together for a few minutes. Can he feel the heat generated? This is caused by *friction*.
- 25. To help an early reader, look for books with read-along audiobooks.
- 26. Ask your child to plan a meal. How many food groups can she include?
- 27. Let your child see you enjoying reading today.
- 28. With your child, learn to say *hello* in two other languages.
- 29. Sing a familiar song and leave out some words. Can your child tell you which words you left out?
- 30. Play Concentration with fractions. Fractions with the same value make a pair, like $1/2$ and $2/4$.
- 31. With your child, make a fall table decoration.



Copyright © 2018 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525

November 2018

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Find a book or website that describes holidays around the world. Choose a new holiday for your family to observe, or invent one.
- 3. Let your child pick a color and try to spot it everywhere he goes today.
- 4. Resist the urge to schedule all of your child's time. Kids need downtime to think, imagine and play.
- 5. Watch a TV show with your child. Talk about decisions the characters made. What would your child have done?
- 6. Talk with your child about mistakes. Tell her that learning from mistakes makes people smarter.
- 7. With your child, learn more about an interesting news story.
- 8. Have a music-sharing night. Share your favorite music with each other. Talk about how it makes you feel.
- 9. Ask family members to write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read your lists aloud at dinner.
- 10. Help your child make her own dictionary with her spelling or vocabulary words.
- 11. Ask your child to write directions for making a sandwich. Then, follow them exactly.
- 12. Have your child look at a group of various objects on a tray. Then, have him close his eyes and name as many as he can remember.
- 13. Challenge your child to invent something that will make life easier.
- 14. At dinner, discuss the best and the worst parts of everyone's day. Give each family member a turn to share.
- 15. Show your child how to take her pulse. Have her jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?

- 16. Talk to your child about ways to resist peer pressure to cheat.
- 17. Have everyone pitch in for a half-hour "blitz" of house cleaning. It teaches children responsibility.
- 18. Suggest that your child write a story from an unusual point of view, such as a birthday party from a present's point of view.
- 19. Ask your child to name his favorite sport. What does he like about it?
- 20. Make a special effort to reinforce manners today. Remind family members to say *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me*.
- 21. Talk with your child about a book she likes.
- 22. Make a list of all the things that make your family thankful.
- 23. Have your child read to you as you're cleaning up after dinner. Or read to your child as he cleans up!
- 24. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the best buy?
- 25. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- 26. Create a word search by hiding words in a grid and surrounding them with random letters. Let your child find the words.
- 27. Tell your child some family stories as you show her family pictures.
- 28. Ask your child which famous historical person he'd like to be. Why?
- 29. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 30. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make it today.



Copyright © 2018 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525