

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help students  
do better in school.*



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE

December • January • February 2011–2012

## December 2011

- 1. With your child, research what happened on the day he was born. Use the Internet or reference materials at the library.
- 2. Visit the library. Check out a book about holiday traditions around the world.
- 3. Give your child a magnet. Have her test which things in your house contain iron.
- 4. Think of something nice your child can do for a neighbor.
- 5. Put on music and have your child spend 15 minutes drawing.
- 6. Talk with your child about *courage*. Look for examples of people who demonstrate courage.
- 7. Make a jigsaw puzzle with your child. Glue a picture from a magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- 8. With your child, make a paper chain to count down the number of days left until January 1.
- 9. Visit the produce department at the grocery store. Ask your child to guess how much certain foods weigh.
- 10. Talk with your child about responsibility.
- 11. Exercise as a family. Choose an activity everyone will enjoy.
- 12. Make your own greeting cards. Check the greeting cards in stores for ideas and write your own messages.
- 13. Talk with your child about times when it's important to say "no," even to an adult.
- 14. Do a crossword puzzle with your child to build vocabulary.
- 15. Hold a family meeting. Make some goals as a family.
- 16. Have your child label four sheets of paper: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. Write descriptive words for each season.

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

- 17. Use a paper plate and two strips of paper to make a practice clock. Help your child practice telling time.
- 18. As school vacation approaches, have your child make a list of things to do when he's bored.
- 19. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books.
- 20. At dinner tonight, talk about gifts that cost no money.
- 21. Look through a photo album with your child.
- 22. Encourage your child to talk with a student about what college is like.
- 23. Share a favorite quote with your child.
- 24. Read a favorite holiday story, poem or religious story with your child.
- 25. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
- 26. See if there's a place you and your child can go roller or ice skating.
- 27. Ask your child to rewrite a headline in the newspaper.
- 28. Find out what's inside a seed. Soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coats and pull the halves apart.
- 29. Help your child figure out the average time she spends reading per day.
- 30. Choose a number, then have your child list all the things he can think of that come in that number.
- 31. Help your child create a time line of the last year.



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# January 2012

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- 1. Create a special holiday just for your family.
- 2. Help your child set a goal and write a plan to achieve it this year.
- 3. Have your child name a food she loves. Where does it come from?
- 4. Compliment your child on a recent accomplishment.
- 5. Help your child plan three healthy breakfasts.
- 6. Trace around your child on a big piece of paper. Have him research and draw what his insides look like.
- 7. Play Go Fish with your child.
- 8. It's National Soup Month. Make soup with your child—and enjoy the book *Stone Soup* together.
- 9. Ask your child to tell you her favorite time of year.
- 10. It's National Clean Off Your Desk Day. Make it "Clean Up Your Homework Place Day," too!
- 11. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself.
- 12. Ask your child about the qualities she looks for in friendships. Talk about why *values* are important.
- 13. Count and walk backward today.
- 14. Set aside some time this month to do something together that you enjoyed as a child.
- 15. Watch a funny TV show with your child. Then have him draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 16. Explain why Martin Luther King's birthday is a holiday. Look for stories or speeches by and about Dr. King.
- 17. Ask your child to record a story.
- 18. Teach your child an important skill, like cooking a simple meal.



- 19. Make a temperature chart. Record the high and low temperature every day. Notice how the temperature changes.
- 20. Can you name an animal that starts with every letter of the alphabet? (You can leave out X!)
- 21. Make an "I am special" scrapbook with your child.
- 22. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes.
- 23. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Pick a period of time and reenact an event together.
- 24. Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for homework. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
- 25. Plan an activity the whole family will enjoy.
- 26. Pretend a circus is coming to town. Talk together about what you would see, hear and taste.
- 27. Have family members do activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 28. Use empty cans to create a game of indoor golf.
- 29. Make a chore chart with your child. List chores he's responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 30. Visit the library. Check out a biography about someone interesting from another country.
- 31. Send your child on a treasure hunt. Make a map that will lead to a small treat.

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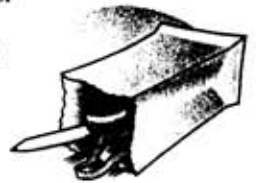
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# February 2012

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

- 1. Try a new kind of transportation with your child, such as a bus or train.
- 2. Talk with your child about what she does *right*. List as many things as you can.
- 3. Choose one or two of your child's interests. Discuss educational opportunities in those areas.
- 4. Clean out closets with your child. Donate extras to charity.
- 5. Talk about your child's schedule. Does he have enough "down time"?
- 6. Visit the library. Check out a book about African American history. Talk about your own family history.
- 7. Get to know your town. Look in the newspaper for a list of things to do. Which ones appeal to your child?
- 8. Today is the birthday of Jules Verne. Use a globe or atlas to help your child plan a "trip" around the world.
- 9. Check out a funny book at the library. Share it at dinner.
- 10. Show your love for your child by reading to her.
- 11. Ask your child to give you a "six o'clock report" about his day. He should pretend he's a news anchor.
- 12. Make a date to take your child out for breakfast. Then do something active together.
- 13. Find a world map at the library. Use your finger to trace where your family came from.
- 14. See how many red or heart-shaped foods you can serve for dinner tonight.
- 15. Have each family member bring an interesting fact to dinner.
- 16. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.

- 17. Read a favorite fairy tale to your child.
- 18. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
- 19. When your child makes a good decision, reward her with praise.
- 20. Good grade on a test? Make your child "King" or "Queen" for the day.
- 21. Put three items in a bag. Have your child and a friend use them as props for a five-minute skit.
- 22. It's the birthday of George Washington. How many facts can your child list about this famous president?
- 23. Talk about outer space with your child.
- 24. Are your kids fighting? Have them switch roles—it helps them see the other person's point of view.
- 25. Solve math problems with yummy treats. Use chocolate chips or gummy bears for adding and subtracting.
- 26. Start a family library. Let your child have his own space for his books.
- 27. Tie a string between two chairs. Use a balloon and play indoor volleyball with your child.
- 28. Talk with your child about choices and consequences.
- 29. It's a Leap Year. Have your child count to 100 by fours.



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