

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Grenada Elementary Schools  
Wanda Merritt, Parent Coordinator



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE

March • April • May 2012

## March 2012

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

- 1. Start giving your child an allowance. Discuss what she will use it for, such as buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 2. It's the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Read one of his books with your child.
- 3. Have your child write a letter to a lawmaker.
- 4. Go to a nearby park or running trail. Everyone run like the March wind!
- 5. Find pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child to make up a story about each picture.
- 6. Set aside some time this month to do something together you enjoyed as a child.
- 7. Come up with unique pizza toppings with your child.
- 8. On a visit to the library, use reference books or the Internet to look up events that happened on the day your child was born.
- 9. How many farm animals can your child name?
- 10. Plan a later bedtime so everyone can read in bed tonight.
- 11. Show your child which way is north, south, east and west.
- 12. Check ads for prices ending in 98 or 99 cents. How much would four of these items cost? Round off and estimate.
- 13. Ask your child to design and name a new car. Look at advertisements in the newspaper for ideas.
- 14. Write an encouraging note and tuck it in your child's jacket pocket or a school book.
- 15. Pretend you are in an opera. Sing everything you say to each other today.
- 16. Teach your child how to sew on a button today.
- 17. Pay your child a compliment.



- 18. Make today punctuation day. See how many types of punctuation you come across. What does each stand for?
- 19. Give your child a book or article about his favorite hobby.
- 20. It's Clutter Awareness Week. Brainstorm about ways to reduce the clutter in your house.
- 21. Have a family dinner by candlelight. Have each person share their favorite part of their day.
- 22. Together, think of several words that start with the same letter. Put them in a sentence that makes sense.
- 23. Ask your child to put on a talent show with her friends.
- 24. Today is the birthday of magician Harry Houdini. Learn a magic trick!
- 25. Help your child start a collection.
- 26. Make today your child's special day. Let him choose what you'll do.
- 27. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 28. Play a rhyming game. Take turns making up a short sentence. Answer with a sentence that rhymes.
- 29. With your child, think of words that sound like what they mean, such as buzz, smash, hiss and thump.
- 30. Have your child choose a newspaper headline. Turn it into a question. Does the article answer the question?
- 31. Ask your child to describe the weather.

**Helping Children Learn**  
The Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



# April 2012

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

- 1. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats and old clothes.
- 2. Have your child choose a business and write a funny ad for it.
- 3. Test your child's knowledge. Who is the president of the United States? Who is the prime minister of Canada?
- 4. Ask your child what the most interesting thing he learned today was.
- 5. Help your child plan ahead. Talk about next weekend. What needs to be done to prepare for a family activity?
- 6. When you read aloud, choose an exciting place to stop. Ask, "What do you think will happen next?"
- 7. Watch an age-appropriate movie about another country with your child.
- 8. Start a family scrapbook. Collect photos, souvenirs, certificates and other mementos. Look through it often.
- 9. Ask your child to look for examples of *tolerance* and *intolerance* in the newspaper or on TV today.
- 10. Talk with your child about *perseverance*.
- 11. How many times can your child jump rope? Hold a contest.
- 12. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to each other's list.
- 13. Tell your child you love her today.
- 14. Think of "what if" questions: "What if we walked on our hands?" "What if cats could talk?"
- 15. Talk about how you use numbers in your daily life.
- 16. Can you and your child communicate without words? Try it and see.
- 17. Ask your child to put dry beans between damp paper towels. Keep moist. In a few days, check to see if they've sprouted.

- 18. Have your child listen to different types of music. Ask him to describe how it makes him feel.
- 19. Make a "family flag." Think of things that represent your family. Use fabric paints to draw these on a piece of cloth.
- 20. Make a bookmark. On a piece of thin cardboard, have your child draw a scene or write a quote from a book.
- 21. Have your child paint to music. Play different types of songs for each painting. Compare how each looks.
- 22. Watch a nature program on TV together.
- 23. Help your child create a joke collection. Fill a notebook with jokes you hear. Cut jokes out of magazines or newspapers.
- 24. It's TV-Turnoff Week. Can your family switch off the set for seven days?
- 25. Talk to your child about how recycling paper is one way to help save natural resources.
- 26. Make a fort with your child out of couch cushions or cardboard boxes.
- 27. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 28. Choose a "Person of the Week." Read more about him or her.
- 29. Ask your child to guess how many times she blinks in a minute. Then try to count.
- 30. Head to a playground and swing on the swings with your child.



**Helping Children Learn**  
Help Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Copyright © 2012 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by Helping Children Learn® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525

# May 2012

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

- 1. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go, and why?" Together, learn more about this location.
- 2. Celebrate Be Kind to Animals Week. Feed the birds in a park.
- 3. Suggest that your child write to his favorite author.
- 4. Clip an interesting news story. Cut the paragraphs apart. Ask your child to read the paragraphs and put them in order.
- 5. Challenge your child to start a neighborhood newsletter.
- 6. Help your child start a collection. Provide a place to keep it.
- 7. Tell your child a story about when she was a baby.
- 8. Ask about the schedule for end-of-year tests. Make sure your child eats a good breakfast those days.
- 9. Try a new sport with your child.
- 10. Choose a new unit of measurement. How many fingers long is your child's desk? How many pencils long is the hall?
- 11. Ask your child what he thinks the world will be like in 10 years.
- 12. It's Limerick Day. Challenge your child to try writing a funny limerick.
- 13. Shop for salad materials at the grocery store. Pick one unfamiliar vegetable. At home, prepare the salad together.
- 14. Have your child place a piece of paper on a tree trunk and rub with a crayon to see the tree's bark pattern.
- 15. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse.
- 16. Have your child design a new cover for her favorite book.
- 17. Have family members describe how they used math today.
- 18. Have your child keep track of everything he eats. How could he make his diet healthier?

- 19. Plan a compliment day, when your family will give lots of genuine compliments.
- 20. Find the oldest building in your town. Visit it with your child and talk about local history.
- 21. Have your child hold her nose while she eats. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- 22. Have your child write a list of the approved TV shows he will watch this week. Stick to the list.
- 23. Take your child out for a one-on-one breakfast.
- 24. Play a family game that uses math. Monopoly® and Parcheesi® teach counting and strategy.
- 25. Let your child clean some dirty pennies with ketchup. Explain that this is a chemical reaction.
- 26. With your child, enjoy an imaginary trip to outer space. Write a story about your trip together.
- 27. Enjoy some physical activity with your child.
- 28. Help your child write a family newsletter. Interview family members and write up the news.
- 29. Role-play a difficult situation your child may face.
- 30. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 31. Ask your child, "What if dogs could fly?"



**Helping Children Learn**  
Help Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Copyright © 2012 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by Helping Children Learn® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525