

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Oswego City School District



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

**December • January • February 2021-2022**

## December 2021

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

- ☐ 1. Holidays have you feeling hassled? Share the responsibility. As kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.
- ☐ 2. Have your child draw a scene from a book onto a narrow piece of cardboard to make a bookmark.
- ☐ 3. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go and why?" Together, do some research to learn more about this location.
- ☐ 4. If your family will be seeing older relatives this month, have your child talk to them about their school days.
- ☐ 5. Begin telling your child a story, and when you get to an exciting part, stop. Let her make up the rest.
- ☐ 6. Teach your child how to cut out paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.
- ☐ 7. Talk with your child about the nicest thing someone has ever done for him. What made it special?
- ☐ 8. Ask your child to give you an "evening news report" about her day. What's the lead story?
- ☐ 9. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- ☐ 10. Have your child pick a word, then put its letters in alphabetical order.
- ☐ 11. Plan a device-free day. Let your child choose alternative activities.
- ☐ 12. Have your child compare the prices of two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- ☐ 13. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- ☐ 14. Discuss nutrition. Have your child name five foods that are healthy, then two foods that taste good but are not healthy.
- ☐ 15. Enjoy some physical activity with your child.
- ☐ 16. Tonight, have your child draw the moon's shape. Is it a crescent, full circle, half circle?
- ☐ 17. Ask your child to estimate how many times he blinks in a minute, then count to see.
- ☐ 18. Pay your child a genuine, specific compliment today.
- ☐ 19. With your child, think of words that sound like what they mean, such as *buzz*, *smash*, *hiss* and *thump*.
- ☐ 20. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a pet.
- ☐ 21. Ask about qualities your child values in friends. Talk about why values are important.
- ☐ 22. Do body arithmetic. Ask your child how much her fingers, knees, toes and nose add up to.
- ☐ 23. Cut apart the frames of a comic strip and ask your child to arrange the pieces in the right order.
- ☐ 24. Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
- ☐ 25. Read a book aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
- ☐ 26. Talk about the free or low-cost activities your family enjoyed most during 2021. If possible, make plans to do them again in 2022.
- ☐ 27. Ask for your child's help with a household task, such as making dinner.
- ☐ 28. Talk with your child about people he admires and why he does.
- ☐ 29. Have your child write step-by-step directions for making a sandwich. Then follow them exactly. Did they work?
- ☐ 30. Ask what your child would like to make an annual tradition. Start it!
- ☐ 31. Find interesting pictures of people. Ask your child to write captions.

# January 2022

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

- ☐ 1. Encourage your child to start a diary or journal for 2022.
- ☐ 2. Tonight, take a walk with your child. What sounds can you hear?
- ☐ 3. Brainstorm with your child about something you would both like to learn, such as how to play chess. Check out a how-to book.
- ☐ 4. Choose a number from one to 12, then have your child list all the things she can think of that come in that number.
- ☐ 5. Write an encouraging note to your child and tuck it in her lunch box or a school book.
- ☐ 6. Teach your child to take his pulse. Have him jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?
- ☐ 7. Send your child on a treasure hunt. Make a map that will lead her to a small treat.
- ☐ 8. Have your child replace adjectives on a printed ad with their opposites.
- ☐ 9. Together, plan your child's recreational screen time for this week.
- ☐ 10. Help your child interview family and friends in career fields that interest him. What is a typical day like for them?
- ☐ 11. Have your child set a goal and write a plan to achieve it by the end of the school year.
- ☐ 12. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- ☐ 13. Think of several words that start with the same letter. Can your child use them in a sentence that makes sense?
- ☐ 14. Choose a news story. Cut off the headline. Challenge your child to read the article and write his own headline.
- ☐ 15. Ask your child what she thinks are her strong skills and why.
- ☐ 16. Organize something with your child, such as a closet.
- ☐ 17. Trace your child's outline on paper. Then have him research and "map" the inside of his body.
- ☐ 18. Teach your child to call 911 in an emergency. Together, practice what to say.
- ☐ 19. Explain to your child how people reach compromises. Give an example.
- ☐ 20. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- ☐ 21. Together, role-play a difficult situation your child may face.
- ☐ 22. Give family members marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. See who can build the tallest tower.
- ☐ 23. Look for a new kind of transportation to try with your child.
- ☐ 24. Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times. Try it and see if she's right.
- ☐ 25. Hold a family meeting. Discuss your family's goals and successes.
- ☐ 26. Write fractions on cards. Mix them up. Have your child put them in order from smallest to greatest.
- ☐ 27. Have a family jump rope contest. How many jumps can you do in a row?
- ☐ 28. Make a chore chart with your child. List his chores and when they should be completed.
- ☐ 29. Talk with your child about things people use that come from plants.
- ☐ 30. Invent a word with your child. Help her write a definition as it would appear in the dictionary.
- ☐ 31. Have your child read the label on a food he eats. What vitamins does it contain? How much sugar is in it?

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# February 2022

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

- ☐ 1. Have a silent dinner. Then, during dessert, have family members share what they were thinking about.
- ☐ 2. It's Groundhog Day. How many words can your child make from the letters in the word GROUNDHOG?
- ☐ 3. Talk about all the things your child does right. List as many things as you can.
- ☐ 4. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- ☐ 5. Share an inspirational quote with your child.
- ☐ 6. When you read aloud, choose an suspenseful place to stop. Ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?"
- ☐ 7. Ask your child to name her favorite sport, and say why she likes it.
- ☐ 8. Watch the news with your child. Choose a person of the week. Together, read more about that person.
- ☐ 9. See how many words your child can use to describe the sky today.
- ☐ 10. With your child, estimate how many bowls of cereal you can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
- ☐ 11. Figure out the average of something with your child, such as family members' ages.
- ☐ 12. Visit a local or online art museum with your child and talk about the paintings.
- ☐ 13. Have your child write a special Valentine's message to someone who is sick or lonely. Help him send or deliver it.
- ☐ 14. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and let her know you love her.
- ☐ 15. Pick a category (cities, animals) and a letter. How many items from that category can your child name that begin with that letter?
- ☐ 16. Does your child need new books? Help him organize a neighborhood book swap.
- ☐ 17. Give your child weekly tickets worth 30 minutes of recreational screen time each. Let her cash in unused tickets for small treats.
- ☐ 18. Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- ☐ 19. At dinner, ask everyone to share something that made them happy this week.
- ☐ 20. Schedule a 20-minute family D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read).
- ☐ 21. At bedtime, allow a few minutes after the light is off for a quiet conversation with your child.
- ☐ 22. It's the birthday of George Washington. How many facts can your child list about this famous president?
- ☐ 23. Talk with your child about a choice you have made. Then talk about the consequences.
- ☐ 24. Look for a TV program on science or history. Watch it with your child.
- ☐ 25. Have family members write reviews of books they've read.
- ☐ 26. Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes picking up the house. Many hands make light work.
- ☐ 27. Look at a blank map of the country together. Can your child name the states or provinces that surround yours?
- ☐ 28. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.

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