

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Special School District Schools  
Title I.A - Family Engagement



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2019

## March 2019

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

- 1. Ask your child to list three things that would make your community a better place.
- 2. Take a map in the car or on a walk with you. Show your child where you are headed and ask her to help navigate.
- 3. Exchange persuasive letters with your child. Try to convince each other of your points of view.
- 4. Write your child a note of thanks. "It's such a help to me when you do the dishes."
- 5. Together, watch a movie based on a book your child has read. Talk about how the versions are similar and different.
- 6. Discuss an international news event with your child. How is it affecting this country?
- 7. Ask your child to take photos during a family outing.
- 8. Tonight, tell your child a story about yourself at his age.
- 9. Review any goals your child has set recently. Is she working toward them as planned?
- 10. Try a new recipe with your child. This gives him practice following directions.
- 11. When your child tells you something important, restate it in your own words to make sure you understand.
- 12. Peer pressure can be positive. Encourage your child to participate in group activities like sports and volunteering.
- 13. Suggest your child keep a notebook handy when reading. She can list words she isn't sure of, and look them up later.
- 14. Your child may be facing important exams this month. Make sure he gets enough sleep the night before.
- 15. Let your child know the things that make her precious to you.
- 16. Help your child figure out the perimeter and area of his bedroom.
- 17. Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- 18. Link your child's responsibilities to freedom. As she becomes more responsible, grant her more freedom.
- 19. With your child, check to make sure your smoke detectors work.
- 20. See if your child can name the government leaders of your state.
- 21. At the library, look at some books of paintings with your child.
- 22. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher.
- 23. Plan a paperback book swap. Invite your child's friends.
- 24. Make a family visit to a nearby museum.
- 25. Challenge your child to create a recipe and write it down.
- 26. Talk with your child about the importance of resolving conflicts without violence. Discuss ways to do it.
- 27. Ask your child to name an *adjective* and an *adverb*.
- 28. After your child takes notes, have him draw pictures of the key ideas.
- 29. At the grocery store, talk with your child about what kinds of things affect food prices.
- 30. List your priorities in life, including family. Does your schedule reflect what's most important?
- 31. Watch a history program together.

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Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

# April 2019

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- 1. April is Math Awareness Month. Take time to review math with your child each day.
- 2. Talk with your child about the qualities you each look for in a friend.
- 3. Keep a bowl of crunchy sliced vegetables in the refrigerator. If you make it easy, your child may eat more healthy foods.
- 4. Look at a road map together. Can your child find the shortest route between two particular cities?
- 5. Find a place for your child to display things she's proud of, such as awards and good grades.
- 6. Help your child think of tough situations he might face. How would he handle them?
- 7. Show your child photographs of you at her age.
- 8. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 9. Ask your child, "What's the most interesting thing you learned today?"
- 10. Try to eliminate pessimistic phrases. For example, replace "It won't work" with "Why not try it?"
- 11. Encourage your child to try a new sport.
- 12. Explain to your child the concept of banks charging interest for loans. Together, look up the current rates.
- 13. Help your child make a time line of his life.
- 14. Go through your cupboards. Have your child list the foods that were produced in other countries, then find those countries on a map.
- 15. Have family members name their heroes. What is it they admire?
- 16. Discuss your child's long-range goals and how education can help make them possible.

- 17. Teach your child a three-step process for any job: *Plan, Do, Finish*.
- 18. Encourage your child to act out historical events she's studying. It can bring lessons to life.
- 19. With your child, think of as many city nicknames as you can: City of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia), Mile High City (Denver).
- 20. Have your child write a letter to an author, lawmaker or celebrity.
- 21. Spend the afternoon reading the newspaper with your child.
- 22. Celebrate Earth Day by doing something together that is good for the environment, such as recycling.
- 23. Decide on a household rule as a family. Write it down, along with the consequence for breaking it.
- 24. Have everyone in the family spend a half hour cleaning up the house. Many hands make light work.
- 25. At the library, check out a book on simple science experiments you and your child can try at home.
- 26. Talk with your child about new words that should be in the dictionary.
- 27. Share a joke with your child today.
- 28. Learn the symptoms of eating disorders. Does your child have healthy eating habits?
- 29. Give your child the facts about sex. Discuss how values relate to them.
- 30. Don't label your child (Nathan is the shy one). Kids tend to live up to roles cast for them by their parents.

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# May 2019

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

- 1. At the store, have your child round prices to the nearest dollar.
- 2. Invent a recipe with your child. If it doesn't work, try to fix it.
- 3. Talk with your child about one thing you each learned today.
- 4. Compare your family's values to those of people your child sees on TV. How are they different or alike?
- 5. Teach your child a helpful saying, such as, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."
- 6. Drugs can be deadly the first time kids use them. Talk with your child and give him the facts about drugs.
- 7. Together, learn more about an interesting news story.
- 8. Give your child a magazine article. Have her circle all the adjectives.
- 9. Give your child a math-related household task to do, such as measuring or budgeting.
- 10. Does your child need more responsibility? More time to talk? More privacy? Ask what he thinks.
- 11. Visit the library. Have your child open an encyclopedia to a random entry. Read it together and see what you learn.
- 12. Go on a nature walk with your child. Notice things you have never seen before.
- 13. When correcting your child, focus more on solutions than blame.
- 14. Memorize a poem or quotation with your child today.
- 15. To gain more time with your child, ask her to join you as you do everyday things, like watering plants.
- 16. Ask your child to teach you something, such as a computer skill.
- 17. Encourage your child to read a biography of a person he admires.

- 18. Serve your child breakfast in bed as a special treat.
- 19. With your child, learn more about the flag of your state or province. What is represented on it?
- 20. Ask your child to give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on sentence.
- 21. At breakfast today, discuss what you each think the day will be like.
- 22. Make family fitness a priority. Choose at least one day a week to do something active together.
- 23. Give your child a specific compliment today.
- 24. Teach your child how to sew on a button. Self-care develops responsibility.
- 25. Visit a nearby college with your child and have a bite to eat in the snack bar or dining hall.
- 26. Avoid using problems with schoolwork as an excuse to criticize or argue with your child about other issues.
- 27. Ask your child to start a list of places your family would like to visit.
- 28. Tell your child one thing you admire most about her as a student.
- 29. Demonstrate tolerance. Don't judge others by their appearances.
- 30. Let your child invite a friend to stay for a family dinner.
- 31. Have your child make a list of 10 things he learned in school this year. Post it on the refrigerator.

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