

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school*

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Prepare for School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. It's April Fool's Day! Enjoy saying silly things to each other today.
- 2. April is Math and Statistics Awareness Month. Use numbers and math words with your child in lots of ways this month.
- 3. Ask your child, "How many things can you name that can fly?"
- 4. Cut out shapes from various colors of paper. Make at least two different colors of each shape. Have your child match them.
- 5. Help your child learn words that describe spatial relationships between objects. Ask, "What's *next* to the stove?" "What's *above* the table?"
- 6. Let your child draw on paper towels with washable markers. Spray the towels with water and watch the colors blend!
- 7. When you are on the road together, have your child point out all the STOP signs. If this is too easy, look for YIELD signs.
- 8. Make a letter tree. Hang new letters from the tree as your child learns them.
- 9. Make up a story in which your child is the main character.
- 10. Celebrate National Poetry Month. Read three poems with your child today.
- 11. Review safety rules for car trips, such as wearing a seat belt and keeping all body parts inside the car.
- 12. Put some items on the table. Have your child point to each as you count them together. Rearrange them and count them again.
- 13. Call your local fire station to find out when the firefighters wash the trucks outside. Go watch with your child.
- 14. Reinforce learning at mealtimes. "Look, this plate is a circle. What shape is your napkin?"
- 15. Help your child make a simple map or model of your street.
- 16. Have your preschooler decorate a paper plate. Cut holes for your child's eyes and mouth to create a mask.
- 17. Do some stretching exercises with your child today.
- 18. Expose your child to different kinds of writing. Read fiction, biographies, nonfiction, reporting and even instructions together.
- 19. Show your child two items of clothing you are thinking of wearing. Let your preschooler choose which one you'll wear.
- 20. On a sunny day, notice your shadows outside together. Where is the sun in relation to you? If you turn around, do your shadows move?
- 21. Teach your child the names of different types of flowers.
- 22. Help your child repurpose items instead of throwing them away. Plastic two-liter bottles can become bowling pins or bats, for example.
- 23. Sing some nursery rhymes with your child.
- 24. Have a pretend phone call with your child. Ask about what your preschooler did *yesterday* and what might be fun to do *tomorrow*.
- 25. Ask your child, "What are some hard things about being a kid?"
- 26. Have an indoor picnic. Spread a blanket on the floor and play music. Let your child help choose the menu.
- 27. Ask your child to put away three items. Afterward, see if your preschooler can tell you what they were.
- 28. Show your child that mixing blue and yellow paint makes green. What does your child think mixing blue and red will make? Try it and see!
- 29. With your child, look at a tree in your neighborhood. How has it changed in the last few weeks?
- 30. Help your child write the words for favorite things, such as *dog*, *jam* and *ball*.