

Daily Learning Planner

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

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December 2024

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

- ☐ 1. Teach your child a new song with a holiday or winter theme.
- ☐ 2. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- ☐ 3. Let your preschooler see you finish a task you have been putting off. Help your child do the same.
- ☐ 4. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of festive events in your area. Plan to attend one with your child this month.
- ☐ 5. Give your child a piece of plain paper and a piece of sandpaper. Which is *smooth*? Which is *rough*?
- ☐ 6. Together, list animals your child loves. If your family could have any animal as a pet, which would your preschooler want to have? Why?
- ☐ 7. Mix up several pairs of socks in a pile. Have your child sort the socks into pairs.
- ☐ 8. Talk about your child's favorite winter activity. If possible, make plans to do it together.
- ☐ 9. At dinner, have family members try holding their noses while eating. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- ☐ 10. Create a costume box for your child. Add yard sale treasures such as purses, scarves and shoes.
- ☐ 11. When preschool friends come over, have your child greet them at the door and walk them out when they leave.
- ☐ 12. Help your child make musical instruments from things around your house. Have a concert.
- ☐ 13. Ask your child questions while shopping: "Why do we have to wait in line?" "Why can't we buy everything we want?"
- ☐ 14. Visit the library with your child and check out books about winter.
- ☐ 15. Help your child form letters out of cooled, cooked spaghetti.
- ☐ 16. Take turns telling a story. "There once was a family who lived in a ____." Your child fills in the blank.
- ☐ 17. Have your child dictate a letter to a family member, then decorate it. Mail it together.
- ☐ 18. Encourage your child to put on a puppet show for your family.
- ☐ 19. Say a word, such as *ball*. Then, ask your child to name another word that begins with the B sound.
- ☐ 20. Give your child a hug for no reason other than to show your love.
- ☐ 21. Talk with your child about how you divide food. "There are two of us and one apple. I'll cut the apple into *halves*."
- ☐ 22. Play catch with your child.
- ☐ 23. Help your child repurpose something old into something new today.
- ☐ 24. Have a family read-aloud before bedtime tonight.
- ☐ 25. Take a family photo. Give your child a copy.
- ☐ 26. Go for a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in December.
- ☐ 27. Have your child try to act out something instead of using words to tell you about it.
- ☐ 28. Expect your child to pick up toys after play time. Turn on some "clean up time" music!
- ☐ 29. On rainy or snowy days, get some indoor exercise with your child.
- ☐ 30. Hide five pennies in plain sight. Can your child find them all?
- ☐ 31. Help your child set a goal for 2025.