

Daily Learning Planner

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

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2025

September 2025

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

- 1. Make a height chart for your child. Measure your preschooler's height each month and point out how it changes.
- 2. Play a game of What am I? together. Say, "I am big and grey. I have a long trunk and I live in Africa. What am I?"
- 3. Make a puzzle. Glue cardboard to the back of a picture. Cut it into six or eight pieces. Help your child put it back together.
- 4. Let your child pick out some school supplies today.
- 5. Make a pattern by alternating apple and banana slices on a plate. Can your child predict what will come next?
- 6. Read a book to your child before each meal and before bedtime today.
- 7. With your child, learn to count to five in another language.
- 8. Reinforce manners today. Remind family members to say *please*, *excuse me* and *thank you*.
- 9. Help your child experiment with mixing colors by squeezing drops of food coloring into cups of water.
- 10. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 11. Help your child spot and identify different shapes around the house.
- 12. Place some light and heavy objects on the floor. Have your child blow on them. Which items blow away? Talk about why.
- 13. September is Library Card Month. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card.
- 14. Discuss a few weather changes that take place in the fall. (Days are colder and shorter.)
- 15. Watch a children's show with your child. Talk about the characters' personalities and behavior.
- 16. Praise your child for doing something well today. Make your praise as specific as possible.
- 17. Look around your house together for different textures. Can your child find something slippery? Scratchy? Fuzzy?
- 18. Encourage independence. Establish rules and guidelines for tasks your child can do without your help, such as getting a drink of water.
- 19. Have your child practice following three-step directions. "Go to the kitchen. Get a spoon from the drawer. Bring it to me."
- 20. Challenge family members to write or do other activities with the hand they don't normally use.
- 21. Make up a song featuring your child's name. Sing it together.
- 22. When your child is unsuccessful with a task, ask, "How could you do it differently next time?"
- 23. Look through a calendar. Point out some special days, such as your child's birthday.
- 24. Together, practice saying your child's street address. Go outside and look at the number.
- 25. Line up chairs like a train. Ask your child to crawl *under* them, *around* them and *on* them.
- 26. Read three poems with your child today.
- 27. Place spare materials—such as scraps of fabric, tissue paper and ribbons—in a box. Let your child use them to make art.
- 28. Bounce a ball once and say *one*. Bounce it twice and say *one, two*. Encourage your child to try. How high can your preschooler count?
- 29. Say a simple word. Can your child think of words that rhyme with it?
- 30. Play a game of Follow the Leader. Take turns *leading* and *following*.

October 2025

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

- ☐ 1. Read with your child for at least 20 minutes today.
- ☐ 2. Have a green day. Have your child color a picture using shades of green. Find foods to eat that are green. Look for the color green all day.
- ☐ 3. Cut part of a photo out of a magazine or catalog. Paste it onto a sheet of paper. Ask your child to use crayons to complete the picture.
- ☐ 4. Look for autumn fairs or festivals nearby. Make plans to attend one as a family this fall.
- ☐ 5. Help your child learn about taste opposites. For *sweet* versus *sour*, use sugar and a lemon. For *salty* versus *bland*, use pretzels and cooked pasta.
- ☐ 6. Talk about where different animals live. Which animals would your child expect to see in the jungle? How about on a farm?
- ☐ 7. Dip the wheels of a toy car in paint. Let your child “drive” it over paper to make a design.
- ☐ 8. Drink a glass of apple cider with your child. Together, learn how cider is made.
- ☐ 9. Help your preschooler create a “store” with toys and play money.
- ☐ 10. Demonstrate how to make phone calls. Help your child call a friend or relative.
- ☐ 11. Have fun with a classic fall activity. Rake leaves and jump into them!
- ☐ 12. Set out different sizes of containers and lids. Ask your child to put the correct lid on each container.
- ☐ 13. Talk with your child about things that make each season special.
- ☐ 14. Remove three items from your purse or pocket. Show them to your child, then put them away. Can your preschooler name them?
- ☐ 15. At the grocery store, ask your child to spot different foods.
- ☐ 16. Cut four shapes from various colors of paper. Make at least two of each shape. Have your child match them.
- ☐ 17. Make plans for a special one-on-one day with your child.
- ☐ 18. Go outside with your child for a “listening minute.” Close your eyes and take turns naming the sounds you hear.
- ☐ 19. Ask your child, “What are three things you like to do that involve a lot of moving your body?”
- ☐ 20. Make today a counting day. Count everything—stairs as you climb them, cars as they pass, raisins as you eat them.
- ☐ 21. Have a bedtime chat with your child after the light is out.
- ☐ 22. Pile leaves on a pillowcase. Have your child lift the case up quickly and then slowly. Watch how the leaves float.
- ☐ 23. Let your child see you enjoying reading.
- ☐ 24. Turn on three different types of music today. With your child, make up movements for each one.
- ☐ 25. Visit the library to check out some books to read together.
- ☐ 26. Ask your child to name things that can be seen in the sky.
- ☐ 27. Help your child make a paper chain out of strips of colored paper.
- ☐ 28. Let your child draw on paper towels with washable markers. Spray the towels with water. Watch the colors blend!
- ☐ 29. Practice sorting with a deck of cards. Have your child sort by color, suit or number.
- ☐ 30. Say a word and see if your child can tell you its opposite.
- ☐ 31. Help your child make an “I’m bored bag.” Fill it with items like a book and stickers and paper.

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November 2025

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

- ☐ 1. Show your child how to use tweezers to pick things up, with supervision.
- ☐ 2. Help your child do a good deed for a neighbor or friend today.
- ☐ 3. Make a “touch box.” Put items such as cotton balls, rocks and small toys into it. With eyes closed, can your child guess what’s inside by the feel?
- ☐ 4. Stretch a rope on the ground. Show your child how to jump over it from side to side.
- ☐ 5. Start a nature log. Have your child draw a picture of the same outdoor feature, such as a tree, every few months.
- ☐ 6. Keep a box or basket as home base for library books. You’ll always know where they are when it’s time to return them.
- ☐ 7. Tell a story about when your child was a baby.
- ☐ 8. Read about holidays around the world together. Choose a new holiday for your family to observe, or invent one.
- ☐ 9. Challenge your child to draw blindfolded. Supervise to ensure marks stay on the paper.
- ☐ 10. Ask your child questions to boost creative thinking. “What would you bring to a picnic in a tree?”
- ☐ 11. Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Have your child tap them gently with a metal spoon and listen to the different tones.
- ☐ 12. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what’s in the picture?
- ☐ 13. Help your child decorate each finger of an old pair of gloves, then put on a finger puppet show.
- ☐ 14. Watch an educational show with your child. Then, discuss a value or practice a new skill from the show.
- ☐ 15. Look at a school bus. Ask your child, “How is it different from a car?”
- ☐ 16. Tell your preschooler family stories you can remember from when you were a child.
- ☐ 17. Find a new word in the dictionary. Talk about what it means with your child. Use it in sentences today.
- ☐ 18. Assign your child an age-appropriate household job. It’s never too early to learn responsibility!
- ☐ 19. Tonight, talk about things that your child would like to learn.
- ☐ 20. Walk with your child in different ways—slowly, quickly, lightly, heavily, on tiptoes, etc.
- ☐ 21. Have your preschooler draw a picture. Ask your child to make up a story about it and tell it to you.
- ☐ 22. Have a Family Night In. Everyone curl up with a good book.
- ☐ 23. When serving food, talk with your child about how you divide it. “There are two of us and one apple. We’ll cut it into *halves*.”
- ☐ 24. Make a sound—by jingling keys, for example—and ask your child to guess what you are doing without looking.
- ☐ 25. When your child tries to do something, praise the effort, even if it isn’t successful.
- ☐ 26. Gather some household objects and ask your child to line them up from *smallest* to *largest*.
- ☐ 27. Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.
- ☐ 28. Ask your child to build a city using blocks or boxes.
- ☐ 29. Write a number and have your child mold the shape of the number with clay or play dough.
- ☐ 30. Look at the weather forecast with your child today. Compare the weather where you live to the rest of the country.

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