

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. Cut four shapes from various colors of paper. Make at least two of each shape. Have your child match them.
- 2. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
- 3. Hide a toy in a box. Let your child shake the box and guess what's in it.
- 4. Read a story to your child and use a different voice for each character.
- 5. Put out two groups of small toys. Ask your child to tell you which group has more toys in it. Then count the toys together.
- 6. Make sure your child knows your family's street address. Look at the house or building number together.
- 7. Make a simple bird feeder. Help your child spread peanut butter on a cardboard tube and roll it in birdseed. Hang it outside.
- 8. Write a number on a piece of paper. Have your child use play dough or clay to mold the shape of the number.
- 9. Talk about healthy food choices. Let your child pick a new fruit to try.
- 10. Let your child paint on paper with sponges. Use the finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- 11. Help your child practice greeting people politely and saying hello.
- 12. Hide an object and give your child three easy clues to find it. Reward success with praise for following directions.
- 13. Let your child help prepare dinner, by tearing lettuce, for example.
- 14. Create an obstacle course. Your child can go *around* a chair, *under* a table or *through* a large box opened on both ends.
- 15. Help your child make a necklace by stringing different shapes of pasta in a pattern.
- 16. Give your child some extra bathtub time today. Together, play with some plastic containers, measuring spoons and funnels.
- 17. With your child, pretend to be snowflakes in the sky.
- 18. Have a "red" day. Wear red. Eat red foods. Look for red everywhere.
- 19. Show your love for your child with a hug.
- 20. Help your child use construction paper strips to make a chain. Remove one link every night to count down to a special day.
- 21. Spend some "floor time" with your child. Make a block tower.
- 22. Ask your child to name some animals with stripes and some with spots.
- 23. Ask what colors come to mind when your child thinks about December. Why those colors? Can your child think of some others?
- 24. Spend a half hour reading together today. Let your child pick the book you will read.
- 25. Go for a winter walk. Listen carefully with your child for winter sounds. How are they different from summer sounds?
- 26. Stretch a rope on the ground. Show your child how to jump over it from side to side.
- 27. With your child, wear different hats all day. Pretend to be someone new each time you change hats.
- 28. Have a counting day. Count stairs as you climb them, cars as they pass, stars as you spot them.
- 29. Together, bake a batch of cookies to share with neighbors and friends.
- 30. Let your child make a collage out of gift wrap or holiday cards.
- 31. Talk with your child about the best things that you each remember about the past year.