

# 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. Teach your child the rhyme: "April showers bring May flowers." Draw a picture of rain and flowers together.
- 2. Exercise with your child today. Try to touch your toes, do sit-ups, run in place or stretch your arms and legs.
- 3. Drop paint onto paper with a spoon. Let your child turn the paper different ways to make designs.
- 4. Read some funny poems aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 5. Help your child do something nice for someone else today.
- 6. Talk about feelings. Have your child give examples of actions or words that make people feel *happy*, *sad* or *mad*.
- 7. Take a walk with your child. Point out things you don't usually notice, such as a pattern in tree bark or reflections in windows.
- 8. Join your child for a few minutes of pretend play today. If your preschooler wants to be the doctor, you pretend to be the patient.
- 9. Tell your child about a family tradition you enjoyed as a child. Recreate the experience together.
- 10. Emphasize the concepts of *now* and *later*. Say, "Now we'll clean up. Later we'll eat dinner."
- 11. Read a story aloud and ask your child to illustrate it.
- 12. Talk with your child about things students do in kindergarten.
- 13. Teach your child about taste opposites. For *sweet* versus *sour*, use sugar and a lemon. For *salty* versus *bland*, use pretzels and plain cooked rice.
- 14. Sing a silly song with your child today.
- 15. Children love to collect things they find in nature. Help your child find a good place to keep a nature collection.
- 16. Does your child need new books? Organize a neighborhood book swap.
- 17. Play "school" with your child. Take turns being the teacher.
- 18. Allow your child to use an adult tool, with your supervision. A flashlight is a great tool for beginners.
- 19. Practice saying the names of the months with your child.
- 20. Glue a picture onto cardboard. Punch holes in the picture. Have your child thread a shoelace through the holes.
- 21. Draw a hopscotch pattern on the sidewalk with chalk. Show your child how to hop through the pattern.
- 22. Have a 20-minute DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).
- 23. Plan a week of ethnic meals. Each night, try a food from a different culture.
- 24. Create a costume box for your child from yard sale treasures, such as scarves and big shirts.
- 25. With your child, look at a tree in your neighborhood. Talk about how it has changed in the last few weeks.
- 26. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- 27. Go outside with your child and blow bubbles today. Try to catch one without breaking it.
- 28. Talk with your child about different types of reading materials. Fairy tales, mysteries, biographies, nonfiction, etc.
- 29. Play Follow the Leader with your child.
- 30. Have your child name five healthy foods that help kids grow and two foods that taste good but are not healthy.