

# 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. Ask your child whether it would be more fun to travel in a car, a train or an airplane. Why? Where would your child go?
- 2. Expect your child to pick up toys after play time. Turn on some clean-up time music!
- 3. Give your child a hug and say "I love you."
- 4. Help your child pour uncooked rice or water from one container to another.
- 5. In the grocery store, ask your child to look for foods that are purple.
- 6. It's Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Look for a new physical activity you can enjoy together as a family.
- 7. Set a goal for the day with your child. Make reaching it as fun as possible.
- 8. Help your child name each of the five senses and what people use them for.
- 9. Experiment with shadows. Where should you and your child stand in relation to the sun to see your shadows?
- 10. Spray shaving cream on a plate and let your child draw in it. This gets fingers ready to write letters.
- 11. Make a list with your child of five things to do during a rainstorm.
- 12. Visit a playground where your child can run, jump and climb safely. These are important motor skills.
- 13. Plan an evening walk with your child. Watch the sun set.
- 14. Use a spoon as a ruler and see how many "spoons" tall your child is.
- 15. Write a letter of the alphabet on a piece of paper. Ask your child to draw things that begin with that letter.
- 16. Choose a book with lots of pictures. Have your child tell you the story based on the illustrations.
- 17. Promote family principles. Say things like "In our family we use kind words and we don't hit."
- 18. Call your local library (or check its website) and find out when the next children's event is. Mark it on the calendar and plan to attend.
- 19. Help your child practice counting all through the house. How many doors are there? Windows? Chairs?
- 20. Ask your child to problem-solve. "How can we get all these toys to fit in the basket?"
- 21. Go daytime camping in your backyard. Drape a sheet over chairs for a tent.
- 22. Together, look at your preschooler's reflection on the back of a spoon. How does it make your child appear?
- 23. Draw several items on paper. Ask your child to count them.
- 24. As you do errands, help your child talk with people you meet about the jobs they do.
- 25. Together, learn something new about a person your child admires.
- 26. Play catch with your child.
- 27. Help your child create a mini "store" with clothes and play money.
- 28. Go on a picnic with your child. After eating, stretch out on a blanket and read together.
- 29. Offer encouragement after a setback. "You are growing and learning a lot and I think you'll be ready to try again soon!"
- 30. Help your child practice cutting with safety scissors. Demonstrate how to cut in a straight line and then a curve.
- 31. When talking about your child, avoid complaining if there is even a chance that your child could overhear.