Elementary School

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help students do well in school

Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7







THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

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Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Students Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

1. Discuss the rules of bicycle safety, such as always wearing a helmet.
2. Give your child a small plant to take care of. Post the watering schedule.
3. Notice and mention the reasons your family reads throughout the day—for pleasure, for information, etc.
4. Using permanent marker, help your child mark off inches on a straight-sided jar. Set it outside and see how many inches of rain fall this week.
5. Find a new way to say "I love you" to your child—in sign language or in secret code.
6. Check on your child's progress in school subjects. If necessary, discuss ways to improve before the year ends.
7. Change chairs at mealtime. Have family members pretend to be the person who usually sits in the chair they are sitting in.
8. Ask your child: "What if ice cream grew on trees?"
9. Look over your child's schoolwork. Talk about what is done correctly before pointing out things your student could fix.
10. Have family members hold their noses while eating. Discuss how it affects the taste of the food.
11. Ask if your child has ever had a really scary dream. What was it about?
12. Today is National Grilled Cheese Day. Challenge your child to invent a healthy version that includes at least one vegetable.
13. Turn off the sound and turn on the closed captioning while watching TV. Encourage your child to read the captions aloud.
14. Review math facts by having your child write them on the driveway or sidewalk with chalk.
15. Ask each family member to write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
16. Does your child know your state bird, tree and flower? If not, look them up together.
17. Take an evening walk with your child. How many stars can you see?
18. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
19. Challenge your child to create a rainbow using household items, including water and a flashlight.
20. Experiment with *photosynthesis*. Let your child put a piece of masking tape on a plant leaf to block light absorption. What happens?
21. Help your child find a website that demonstrates how to make things, like paper airplanes. Provide supplies and space to work.
22. Brainstorm ways you and your child could help make your neighborhood more beautiful.
23. Assign your child a new chore, like folding towels or setting the table.
24. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
25. Allow your child to stay up late to read tonight.
26. Talk about the importance of the oceans to life on Earth.
27. Have your child write a story from an interesting point of view, such as a shoe's view of a walk in the countryside.
28. Challenge your child to describe today's weather without using the words *hot*, *cold*, *cloudy*, *rainy* or *sunny*.
29. Ask thought-provoking questions: "What would you bring to Mars?"
30. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats, shoes and old clothes.

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