

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

Nordonia Hills City School District
Title I Program



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. Talk about the meanings of *first* and *last*. Have your child touch the first and last objects in a row.
- 2. April is Math Awareness Month. Talk with your child about all the different ways you use math as you go through the day.
- 3. Insert four toothpicks into a potato so it will sit on a glass of water. Keep the bottom of the potato wet. It should sprout in two weeks.
- 4. String a pasta necklace with your child. Have him count each piece of uncooked pasta as he strings it.
- 5. Plan a backwards meal day. Eat dinner for breakfast and breakfast for dinner. Let your child help plan what to eat.
- 6. Talk with your child about things that are associated with spring, such as flowers, baby animals and sunshine.
- 7. Plan a compliment day, when everyone in your family will give people around them lots of genuine compliments.
- 8. Have an indoor campout. Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and tell each other stories.
- 9. Record your child "reading" a story to a stuffed animal.
- 10. Use sidewalk chalk to draw letters, numbers and pictures outside with your child.
- 11. Spend some time playing on the floor with your child.
- 12. Help your child think of an imaginary land. Together, name it and make up a story about it.
- 13. Have your child make a decoration to use on the next holiday or family birthday.
- 14. Show your child the change from your pocket. Can she identify coins by name? Talk about the size and color of each.
- 15. Hang a calendar where your child can see it. Each morning, mark the day with a smiley face.
- 16. Decorate a shoebox to make a treasure chest. Fill it with small treats. Hide it and have a family treasure hunt.
- 17. Ask your child to pretend to be a flower seed tucked in the soil and waiting for spring. Tell him to start "growing."
- 18. Teach your child the rhyme: "April showers bring May flowers." Have her draw a picture of rain and flowers.
- 19. See who can find the tiniest thing on a walk.
- 20. Teach your child the concepts of *up* and *down*. If you can, ride an escalator or an elevator together today.
- 21. Teach your child the name of the president.
- 22. Give "toasts" at dinner. Have each person honor someone else.
- 23. Have a "pattern" day. Ask your child to point out patterns, such as a striped shirt or floral sheet.
- 24. Help your child make a telescope out of cardboard tubes taped together. Have her decorate it.
- 25. Have your child imitate all your movements. Then imitate his.
- 26. Talk about animals your child might see in a zoo. What do they eat? Where do they sleep? Are they dangerous?
- 27. Read your child a story that rhymes.
- 28. Have your child put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. Watch the color rise up into the stalk over the next week.
- 29. Teach the words *forward*, *backward*, *low* and *high* by jumping together.
- 30. Get two socks. Soak one in water and keep one dry. Ask your child which one she thinks is heavier. Ask why.