

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help students
do better in school.*

Title I Program
Elgin Public Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August 2012

June 2012

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Have your child pretend he's a character from a book. Ask questions until you figure out who he is.
- 2. Make a list with your child of things you want to do this summer.
- 3. Visit an art museum with your child and talk about the paintings.
- 4. Write the word SUMMER vertically. Have your child use each letter to start each line of a poem about summer.
- 5. Watch a TV show with your child. Keep track of the time spent on commercials versus the program.
- 6. It's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month. Ask your child to choose a new fruit or vegetable to try.
- 7. Talk about ways your child can handle stress.
- 8. Help your child make a poster with summer safety tips.
- 9. Make a list of 10 things your child learned in school this year. Post it on the refrigerator.
- 10. Take an after-dinner walk with your child.
- 11. Show your child a sunrise and a sunset. Talk about how the sun always rises in the east and sets in the west.
- 12. Schedules are important during the summer, too. Set aside time each day for family reading.
- 13. How many creatures can you find that make their homes in the ground?
- 14. Help your child talk with people about the jobs they do.
- 15. Start a family collection of reading reviews. When someone reads a book, they write a review in a special notebook.
- 16. Have your child be a pet detective. Observe an animal.
- 17. Sit outside and look at clouds with your child.
- 18. Have your child make some postcards of your town.
- 19. Does your child have a summer reading list? Post it in a special place. Check off books she has read.
- 20. Can your child tell time? Make sure your child can read a regular (analog) clock—not just a digital one.
- 21. Allow your child to stay up late to read tonight.
- 22. Give your child a magnet. Have him predict which things the magnet will pick up.
- 23. Bake a cake with your child. Allow her to decorate it.
- 24. Take a walk with your child and use all five senses to observe the world around you.
- 25. Together, learn to say "hello" in two other languages.
- 26. Have your child start a "What I Learned Today" journal.
- 27. See how many words your child can use to describe the sky.
- 28. Do you know your child's friends? Have him help you make a list of their names and phone numbers.
- 29. Let your child gather wildflowers. Iron them between sheets of wax paper. Hang where the light will shine through.
- 30. Give your family members marshmallows and toothpicks. See who can build the tallest tower.



Helping Children Learn
TIPS FAMILIES CAN USE TO HELP CHILDREN DO BETTER IN SCHOOL



July 2012

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Test your child's observation skills. Can she describe someone who just passed her on the street?
- 2. Have your child find things outdoors that are smooth or shiny.
- 3. Take your child to your local fire station for a tour.
- 4. Talk about the word *independence* with your child today.
- 5. Ask your child to write a poem about his favorite thing to do.
- 6. Look at old family photos. Share family stories with your child.
- 7. Tell your child a "fun fact" about something she loves.
- 8. Take a walk and look for the North Star. Help your child learn how it helped explorers and travelers.
- 9. Give your child some objects to organize.
- 10. Plan a Summer Olympics with your child. Award gold, silver and bronze medals.
- 11. Pick a category, such as *animals*. Then pick a letter, such as *b*. How many items from that category begin with that letter?
- 12. Start a family summer reading contest. Who can read the most books?
- 13. Watch the news with your child. Choose a story and compare it with a newspaper article on the same subject.
- 14. Choose a new recipe. Have fun making it with your child.
- 15. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up at the library.
- 16. Make your own rain. Turn on the sprinkler and run through it with your child.
- 17. Open an atlas and point to a country. With your child, figure out what time it is there.

- 18. Visit your library. Help your child find a book in a series to read. Ask the librarian for suggestions.
- 19. Take a walk with your child. Later, have him make a map of the route.
- 20. Make a list of words that came from other languages. Here's a start: *vamoose, taco, pasta*.
- 21. Talk about the "best" and "worst" of your day. Everyone take a turn.
- 22. Help your child pick some flowers to give a bouquet to someone special.
- 23. Visit the library and check out a book about birds.
- 24. Everyone tell how they used math today.
- 25. Ask your child to listen for a certain word as you read and have her say it aloud when she hears it.
- 26. Reviewing math facts? Get a piece of chalk and try writing problems on the sidewalk.
- 27. Ask your child to help you plan an activity.
- 28. Is your child behaving well and cooperating? Say how proud you are!
- 29. Talk to your child about the difference between *telling* and *tattling*.
- 30. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 31. Use old coffee cans to set up a golf course in your yard. Sticks can be used as golf clubs.



Helping Children Learn
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



Copyright © 2012 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525

August 2012

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Practice math skills with "real-life" problems. How many weeks of allowance would your child need to buy a bike?
- 2. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 3. Which way is the wind blowing? Let your child hang a piece of yarn on a tree branch to find out.
- 4. How would your child handle an emergency? Teach him how to call 911. What should he say?
- 5. Encourage writing by helping your child make her own stationery on a computer.
- 6. Lie on the grass and look at the clouds with your child. Make up stories about the shapes you see.
- 7. Have your child write directions for making his favorite sandwich. Then follow them together.
- 8. Explore the magazine section of the library with your child today.
- 9. Have a silent conversation with your child. Draw what you want to say.
- 10. Listen to a piece of music that has no lyrics. Have your child write her own words to the song.
- 11. Plan an imaginary vacation with your child.
- 12. Have your child help you find the best deals for school supplies.
- 13. Ask your child to draw a picture of his favorite flower.
- 14. Find a simple science experiment in a library book or online to do with your child today.
- 15. Teach your child to wash her hands often—before every meal, after sneezing and after playing outside.
- 16. Don't let your child get overscheduled this fall. School comes first.

- 17. Let your child read you the directions for a recipe.
- 18. Encourage your child to reconnect with school friends who have been away this summer.
- 19. Ask your child what he enjoyed most this summer.
- 20. Have your child get a study area ready for school now. Stock it with needed supplies.
- 21. Tell your child you love her.
- 22. Talk about ways to say *no* to drugs and alcohol.
- 23. Plan a "no-TV" day.
- 24. Have your child research a question that you don't know the answer to.
- 25. Talk about tricky pairs of letters. Help your child distinguish between *w* and *m*, *n* and *u*, and *b* and *d*.
- 26. Help your child make a time capsule of things you did together this summer. Save it for a year or two.
- 27. See how many ways your child can write a number. For example, 4 can be written 1+3, 2+2, or 6-2.
- 28. Have your child help you make a list of nutritious after-school snacks.
- 29. Start a sentence-a-day story. In a special notebook, your child writes a story one sentence at a time.
- 30. What has your child learned this summer? Compliment him!
- 31. Make graphs of the types of pets in your neighborhood.



Helping Children Learn
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



Copyright © 2012 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*® newsletter • 1-800-756-5525