

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help students
do well in school*

Oxford Middle School



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2022

March 2022

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

- 1. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
- 2. Talk with your child about stereotypes. Discuss why they're unfair.
- 3. Brainstorm with your child about something that could help your family, such as how to lower your electric bill.
- 4. Take your child to a high school sporting event. Talk about his expectations for high school.
- 5. Patiently explain the reason for a rule your child doesn't like.
- 6. Listen to a piece of music that has no lyrics. Have your child write her own words to the song.
- 7. Celebrate National Nutrition Month! Look for ways to incorporate a wider variety of vegetables into your meals.
- 8. Have your child use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice to write a message. Hold the paper up to a light bulb to decipher.
- 9. Write your child a letter about the day he came into your life.
- 10. Look at the course catalog of a local college. Which topics interest your child?
- 11. Give your child a budget and some guidelines, and let her choose some clothes she'd like.
- 12. If your child plays a sport, leave the coaching to the coach. Sideline coaching by families distracts and embarrasses players.
- 13. Have your child select and read a news article to you. Share opinions about it with each other.
- 14. Ask questions about school to get an idea about what your child is learning and doing.
- 15. Teach your child a three-step process for any job: *Plan, do, finish*.
- 16. Does your child know the names of the top elected officials from your state or province? If not, help him learn them.
- 17. Choose a spot in your home where family members can post things they are proud of. Post something your child has done.
- 18. Has it been a hard week at school? Take your child out for a treat.
- 19. Tell your child a story that teaches a moral lesson.
- 20. Give family members marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 21. While your child does homework, do some quiet work yourself.
- 22. Ask your child to tell you about the similarities and the differences between her classes.
- 23. Be on the lookout for things your child does right. Praise progress and successes.
- 24. At the market, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.
- 25. Look for an educational show on TV to watch with your child tonight.
- 26. Make it clear that you expect your child to follow school rules.
- 27. Have a formal family dinner. Everyone should dress up and use their best manners.
- 28. Make this a Surprise Week during which family members do nice things for each other.
- 29. Ask your child to write a proposal for a privilege he has requested.
- 30. Use math terms while talking with your child. For example, "This street is *parallel* to ours."
- 31. Respect your child's privacy. Knock before entering her room.

April 2022

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- 1. Help your child create a “family message center” for phone messages and other communications.
- 2. Choose a recipe with your child. Shop for ingredients, cook and enjoy the results together.
- 3. Schedule some one-on-one time with your child this month.
- 4. Set a technology curfew. All digital devices must be turned off for the night at a certain time.
- 5. How many ways can your child make change for a dollar using different combinations of coins?
- 6. Help your child make a planning board to use for big assignments.
- 7. Apologize to your child when it is appropriate. He’ll learn that it is necessary to take responsibility for mistakes.
- 8. When your child tells you something important, restate it to make sure you understand.
- 9. Ask your child to list fun alternatives to recreational screen time.
- 10. Social media makes it easy to hurt others. Remind your child not to post anything she wouldn’t say to someone’s face.
- 11. Nurture your child’s creativity. Ask questions that start with “What if ...” and “Why do you think ...?”
- 12. Talk with your child about a choice you have made. Then talk about the consequences of that choice.
- 13. Encourage your child to start a journal.
- 14. Is your child having a problem at school? Have him brainstorm ways he could solve it—without your help.
- 15. Talk with your child about the possible implications of a recent scientific discovery.
- 16. Check on your child’s grades. If necessary, help her plan ways to raise them before the year ends.
- 17. Ask your child, “Is it more important *to be* the best, or *to do* your best?”
- 18. Give your child a newspaper article. Have him circle all the *adjectives*.
- 19. Ask your child to estimate the length of a table. Then have her measure to see if she’s right.
- 20. Let your child overhear you saying something positive about him to someone else.
- 21. Have your child solve silly math problems, such as “How many hours until the last day of school?”
- 22. Celebrate Earth Day by doing something good for the environment, such as mending or repurposing an item rather than throwing it out.
- 23. Ask your child which classes she is excited to take in high school.
- 24. Help your child bake cookies today. Review math skills by doubling the recipe.
- 25. Ask your child to pay attention to things he might not usually notice about a book. When was it published?
- 26. Suggest that your child keep paper and pencil handy while reading. She can use it to jot down unknown words and look them up later.
- 27. Send your child on a “fraction search” through the news. What kinds of articles have the most fractions?
- 28. Ask your child to name five things he learned in school this month. Post the list on the refrigerator.
- 29. Write your child notes and ask her to write back.
- 30. Check out two copies of the same book from the library so you and your child can read together.

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May 2022

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

- 1. Ask your child to tell you how to get from one place to another. Follow his directions together to see if they are accurate.
- 2. Remind your child that school is her job. It comes before sports, hobbies and recreational screen time.
- 3. Talk with your child about a current event that is happening out of the country. How could it affect you? Could it happen here?
- 4. Your child may be facing important tests this month. Make sure he gets enough sleep the night before.
- 5. Point out the position of the sun. See if your child knows what it can tell you.
- 6. Listen to your child’s concerns and acknowledge her feelings, but discourage whining.
- 7. Ask how many two-scoop combinations your child can make with three flavors of ice cream. Try one together.
- 8. Do you have to drive your child to activities? Use car time to talk.
- 9. Give your child a history lesson. What was life like 30 years ago?
- 10. Ask your child to guess which ingredients or vitamins are in a food. Then check the label.
- 11. Challenge your child to walk someplace (if safety allows) instead of being driven.
- 12. Ask your child: “Do you think honesty is always the best policy? Why or why not?”
- 13. Go on a nature walk with your child. Can you each find things you have never seen before?
- 14. Don’t criticize or correct your child in front of his peers.
- 15. Brainstorm together about where you’d go on a dream vacation.
- 16. Today, talk to your child as you would to a friend or co-worker. How does she respond?
- 17. Play the Fame Game with your child. Take turns calling out names of famous people and guessing what they did. Then look them up.
- 18. Memorize a poem or quotation with your child today.
- 19. Does your child know how to swim? If not, look into lessons.
- 20. What are your child’s special interests? Help him find books and articles about these topics.
- 21. Ask your child to research organizations she’d like to volunteer for.
- 22. Skim your child’s homework or class notes and ask him questions to help him review.
- 23. Talk with your child about something you recently learned.
- 24. Give your child a plan for handling mistakes: Admit them, fix them, learn from them, and figure out how to avoid repeating them.
- 25. See if your child can think of *homophones*—words that sound alike, but mean different things. For example, *sail* and *sale*.
- 26. Is your child getting enough exercise? Take a brisk walk together today.
- 27. Challenge your child to classify living animals she sees: *amphibian*, *mammal*, *bird*, *reptile*, *fish*, *insect* or *invertebrate*.
- 28. Help your child make a to-do list for the rest of the school year. Organization is a stepping stone to independence.
- 29. Ask your child what he thinks is the greatest invention, and why.
- 30. Agree on an adult friend who your child can call if she doesn’t feel comfortable asking you for advice.
- 31. If your child could learn anything this summer, what would it be?

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