

Daily Learning Planner

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

Mesa Unified School District #4



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2022-2023

December 2022

- 1. Make a 31-link paper chain with your child. Tear off a link each day to count down the days until January 1.
- 2. Set aside time today to work on a project with your child. Choose something your student could give as a gift.
- 3. Make a meal together. Explain why you do some steps before others.
- 4. Have your child blow bubbles in freezing weather. How does the cold affect them? Look for ice forming on the bubbles.
- 5. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then let your child pick a word.
- 6. Make paper snowflakes with your child. Decorate your windows.
- 7. Have your child use a news source (in print or online) to check weather around the world. Where is it coldest?
- 8. Look for a community service project your family can do together.
- 9. Have your child teach you about something the class is learning. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
- 10. Talk to your child about holiday traditions in other cultures. Find a book about holidays to read together.
- 11. Give your child a flashlight to use to read in bed tonight.
- 12. Pick a word and challenge your child to put its letters in alphabetical order.
- 13. Find pictures of people in various situations. Ask your child to write captions.
- 14. Have your child compare the prices of two sizes of the same product at the grocery store. Which is the better buy?
- 15. Take a walk with your child and look at trees. Which trees are evergreen? Which ones are *deciduous* (lose their leaves in winter)?

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

- 16. Talk to your child about the importance of thanking people for gifts and kindnesses.
- 17. Set aside some time this month to do something seasonal together that you enjoyed when you were a child.
- 18. Watch the news on TV with your child. Choose one story and compare it with a print news article about the same event.
- 19. Review spelling or vocabulary words with your child tonight.
- 20. Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times. Then try it. Was your child's prediction close?
- 21. Talk with your child about the link between rights and responsibilities.
- 22. Have your child listen to different types of music and describe the feelings each one inspires.
- 23. Have your child make a list of things to do when there's nothing to do.
- 24. Read a story to your child and use a different voice for each character.
- 25. Hum a popular song and see if your child can guess its name.
- 26. With your child, estimate how many bowls of cereal you can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
- 27. Look for a show or video about history and historical figures. Watch with your child.
- 28. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a friend or neighbor.
- 29. Make a puzzle with your child. Glue a picture onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle-piece shapes.
- 30. Have your child write directions for making a sandwich, then follow them exactly. How does it turn out?
- 31. Help your child create a time line of 2022.

January 2023

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- 1. Make a list with your child of activities you enjoyed together during the past year. Schedule time on the calendar to do some of them this year.
- 2. Talk with your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 3. Pick a letter. How many country names can your child think of that begin with that letter?
- 4. Have your child pretend to be Mayor. Then ask your student to list three ideas for making your community a better place.
- 5. Challenge your child to put away 1 + 5 - 4 + 1 things around the house.
- 6. Play the Opposites Game. Say a word and see if your child can tell you its opposite.
- 7. Have a big job to finish? Look for five free minutes and get started. Small chunks of time add up, and you'll set a great example for your child.
- 8. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
- 9. Have your child think of several words that start with the same letter, then use them all in one sentence that makes sense.
- 10. Look over your child's schoolwork. Talk about what your child did right before offering suggestions.
- 11. Help your child look up events that occurred on this day in history.
- 12. Have a contest: Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
- 13. Decide as a family on something you want to accomplish together.
- 14. Help your child create a family joke book. Write one or two jokes per page. Staple the pages together.
- 15. Teach your child about resolving conflicts. Explain how people reach compromises. Give an example.
- 16. Help your child learn more about the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 17. Label four sheets of paper: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Have your child write descriptive words for each season.
- 18. Help your child clean out a closet. Pass on unused toys or clothes in good condition to other families.
- 19. Encourage your child to write a letter or an email to a friend.
- 20. Invent a word with your child. Write a definition as it would appear in the dictionary.
- 21. With your child, learn how to count to 10 in three different languages.
- 22. Cook breakfast with your child for the rest of the family.
- 23. When you're in the store, ask your child to figure how much tax you will be charged on a purchase.
- 24. Write an encouraging note and place it on your child's pillow.
- 25. Choose a poem to read aloud to your child. With your feet, stomp out the syllables as you read.
- 26. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family to tell how they used math.
- 27. Plan an indoor family "camp-out." Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores. Read scary stories.
- 28. Enjoy some outdoor exercise with your child today.
- 29. Look through your house with your child. Make a list of everything that comes from plants.
- 30. Show your child three small items, then put them away. Can your child name them from memory?
- 31. At dinner, have everyone talk about one thing they learned today.

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February 2023

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

- 1. Start a "chain of hearts." Cut out small hearts. Each day, write a reason you love your child on one and attach it to the chain.
- 2. It's Groundhog Day. How many words can your child make from the letters in GROUNDHOG?
- 3. Stuck inside due to bad weather? Take your shoes off and go "ice skating" in the kitchen together in your socks. Be careful!
- 4. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
- 5. How many types of punctuation can your child find in an article or short book? What does each do in a sentence?
- 6. If you don't have time to read to your child at night, read in the morning. It's a real "power breakfast."
- 7. At bedtime, take a few minutes to talk with your child about things that went well today.
- 8. Share family stories you can remember from when you were a child.
- 9. Talk with your child about the difference between courage and recklessness. It's not brave to take foolish risks.
- 10. Frame a special example of your child's artwork.
- 11. Plan a visit to an interesting museum with your child.
- 12. Read a nonfiction assignment with your child. Then ask your student to summarize it.
- 13. Pretend a circus is coming to town. Talk together about what you would see, hear and taste.
- 14. Discuss five positive things that make your child unique.
- 15. Do a crossword puzzle with your child. Or make up your own together.
- 16. Play a geography game. Someone names a city, state or river. The next person has to locate it on a map or globe.
- 17. Encourage your child to design and name a new car. What features would it have?
- 18. Help your child round up some friends and play a game together outside.
- 19. Have your child think of as many red foods as possible. See how many you can serve this week.
- 20. When your child has a problem, offer two possible solutions and let your child decide which one to choose.
- 21. Have your child make a list of all the weather words (*moisture, vortex*) in today's forecast.
- 22. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 23. Play a rhyming game. Take turns making up a short sentence. Answer with a sentence that rhymes.
- 24. Take your child outside for a "listening minute." Each of you close your eyes and try to name the sounds you hear.
- 25. Check out an adventure story from the library to read with your child.
- 26. Ask your child to use a ruler or measuring tape to measure and record the dimensions of objects in your house.
- 27. Have your child draw what is visible outside a window in your home.
- 28. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to provide experience answering questions that require reasoning.

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