

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children  
prepare for school.*

Grenada Elementary Schools  
Dr. Wanda Merritt, Parent Coordinator



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

**September • October • November 2012**

## September 2012

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

- 1. Make an appointment to spend time with your child this month and write it on your calendar.
- 2. Have dinner by candlelight with your child tonight.
- 3. Ask your child, "What one thing makes you feel really excited?"
- 4. Make an appointment to visit school and meet your child's teacher this month.
- 5. Draw a picture with your child today. Hang it on the refrigerator.
- 6. Set a regular time for homework this school year. Find the time that works best for your child.
- 7. Cut out four pictures from a magazine. Ask your child to tell you a story that involves something from each picture.
- 8. It's International Literacy Day. Make sure your family has a regular reading time each day.
- 9. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?"
- 10. When reading aloud, get everyone to join in. Record your "performance." Enjoy listening to it again later!
- 11. Watch a funny TV show with your child. Then have him draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 12. Ask your child to tell you one thing she learned in school today. Share one thing you learned today.
- 13. Name different types of punctuation with your child. Have him identify them in your local newspaper.
- 14. Talk about how you use numbers at home.
- 15. Ask your child, "What are your three favorite songs?"



- 16. Batter up! Play math facts baseball. Ask your child math questions. Each correct answer is a "base hit."
- 17. Choose a place for things that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each day.
- 18. Look for maps in the newspaper. How many can your child find?
- 19. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
- 20. When you're outside, show your child which way is north, south, east and west.
- 21. Limbo under a broomstick with your child.
- 22. Avoid library fines. Establish a place for library books.
- 23. "Adopt" a neighborhood tree. Plan to watch it throughout the year. Talk about how it looks, sounds and even smells.
- 24. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book about food.
- 25. Make a jigsaw puzzle with your child. Glue a picture from a magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- 26. Johnny Appleseed was born in 1744. Prepare an apple dessert with your child.
- 27. Ask your child what he would do with five dollars.
- 28. Play "guess that number": How many grapes in a bunch?
- 29. Review spelling words with your child tonight.
- 30. Watch a sports event on TV with your child. Talk with your child about what you see and hear.

**Helping Children Learn**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School*



# October 2012

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

- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Plan a family talent show. Have everyone practice their acts this week.
- 3. Role-play a sticky situation with your child. What would she do if her friend were teasing someone at school?
- 4. A good breakfast helps kids learn. Start the day with a healthy breakfast.
- 5. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 6. With your child, make awards for all your talent show participants.
- 7. Start giving your child an allowance. Discuss what he can use it for, such as buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 8. Take a walk and see if your child can identify the trees you pass.
- 9. Give your child some string and a button. See if she can thread the string through the button holes and make the button spin.
- 10. Keep a notebook handy when watching TV. Have your child jot down five new words. Look them up later.
- 11. Time different things you and your child do in a day.
- 12. Give your child a whistle to blow if he is in danger. Warn your child that he should only blow it when there is danger.
- 13. Look through the newspaper with your child. What headlines interest her? Read an article together and discuss it.
- 14. Have a family dinner by candlelight. Ask each person to share the week's experiences.
- 15. When your child brings home schoolwork, focus on what is right before noting what is wrong.
- 16. Provide a regular place to display your child's best schoolwork. Change the display often.
- 17. Make up a song featuring your child's name.

- 18. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 19. Tell your child that you love him.
- 20. With your child, make a fall decoration for your table.
- 21. Have your child glue craft sticks together to make a frame and decorate it with buttons and markers.
- 22. Watch a nature-oriented show with your child.
- 23. Take a walk and collect pretty leaves. Put them between clear self-stick paper to make placemats.
- 24. Ask your child to come up with words with both a suffix and a prefix (such as *replacement*).
- 25. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 26. Write down the ages of family members. Express them in math terms—Dad is 25 years older than Mike.
- 27. Challenge your child to build an animal out of five pipe cleaners.
- 28. At the library, use books and the Internet to learn more about careers in which your child is interested.
- 29. Plan an exercise "date" with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy, such as walking or tossing a ball.
- 30. Every time you talk with your child on the phone, end by saying, "I love you."
- 31. Make up a story with your child.



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# November 2012

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

- 1. Let your child see you reading today.
- 2. Get an audio recorder and record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 3. With your child, create an indoor miniature golf course with obstacles and ramps.
- 4. Set aside some time today to work on a hobby with your child.
- 5. Start a project with your child, such as building a model or a doll house. Make plans to work on it regularly together.
- 6. Talk with your child about important events in the news.
- 7. Give your child a calendar to fill with important notes about homework, tests and school activities.
- 8. Record math facts ("3 times 2 is ..."). Leave time for the answer. Then give the correct response.
- 9. Help your child figure out the average time she spends reading per day.
- 10. Write a note saying something nice about your child. Tuck it where he will find it later.
- 11. Ask your child, "What are your three favorite movies?"
- 12. Start a kitchen band. Use spoons, pans and lids for instruments. March around the house.
- 13. Ask your child, "Who is the nicest person you know?"
- 14. Talk about a familiar place and decide which direction (north, south, east or west) it is from your home.
- 15. Challenge your child to determine the direction of the wind by using his finger or by watching things blow.
- 16. Is your child behaving well? Be sure to say how proud this makes you.

- 17. Help your child make a list of things, such as vegetables. Then have her put them in alphabetical order.
- 18. Gather bus schedules or maps to a fun place—the zoo, a museum, a park. Let your child plan a trip.
- 19. Play tic-tac-toe with your child.
- 20. Write a list of creatures that live in the ocean. Have your child draw a picture of one or two.
- 21. Ask your child to flick his cheek while changing the shape of his mouth to get different sounds.
- 22. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book about oceans.
- 23. Look at the weather map in your local newspaper. Ask your child to find the hottest spot and the coldest spot.
- 24. This evening play a board game with your child.
- 25. Volunteer as a family. Let your child help pick what to do.
- 26. Bake cupcakes with your child. Use colors of icing to show fractions—halves, fourths or thirds.
- 27. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
- 28. Make up new compound words for familiar objects. Perhaps your cat is a *purr*cuddler.
- 29. Take turns reading aloud with your child.
- 30. Teach your child how to handle stress—exercising, getting enough sleep, talking about problems.



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