

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school*

Title I Programs

Amarillo Independent School District



THE
PARENT
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September • October • November 2021

September 2021

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

- 1. Say a word and see if your child can think of others that rhyme with it.
- 2. Turn your child's plate over when you are about to serve food. Explain the concept of *upside down*, then turn the plate *right side up* and serve.
- 3. Have your child practice tossing balls into buckets of various sizes. Gradually increase the distances.
- 4. Write a number and ask your child to mold the shape of the number with clay or play dough.
- 5. See how many round objects your child can find around your home.
- 6. Encourage your child to draw a self-portrait.
- 7. Ask your child's opinion about something. "Where do you think we should put this vase?" If possible, take his advice.
- 8. Give your child a set of household objects and ask her to line them up from *smallest* to *largest*.
- 9. When riding in the car with your child, discuss the shapes and colors of road signs you see.
- 10. Have your child decorate a construction paper strip to make a bookmark. Cover it with clear contact paper.
- 11. Check some new books out from the library to read with your child.
- 12. Make puzzles by gluing catalog or magazine pictures to cardboard. Cut the pictures into four pieces. Have your child fit them together.
- 13. Go for a "green" walk. Ask your child to point out and describe all the green things he sees.
- 14. Praise your child for something she did well today. Make your praise as specific as possible, so she'll understand what she did right.
- 15. Try a "new" food with your child. Guess how it will taste: *Sweet? Sour? Salty?* Compare your answers to the real experience.
- 16. When your child has a problem, give him two acceptable solutions and let him decide which one to choose.
- 17. Talk together about things that make each season special.
- 18. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to give her experience answering questions that require reasoning.
- 19. In the morning, help your child choose three of his favorite books. Read all of them together sometime today.
- 20. Play Now and Later. Say, "Now we'll clean up. Later we'll eat dinner."
- 21. Look through a newspaper or magazine with your child. Have her find familiar letters and numbers in headlines.
- 22. Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Have your child tap them gently with a spoon and listen to the different tones.
- 23. Place items in a shoe box. Cut a hole in the lid. Let your child reach in and guess what he feels.
- 24. Look at the weather forecast with your child. Compare the weather where you live to the weather in other places in the country.
- 25. Spend a day focusing on manners. Praise your child when she says *please*, *thank you* and other polite things.
- 26. Play a game outdoors with your child today.
- 27. Show your child photos from his life. See if he can guess when he was youngest.
- 28. Cut shapes from different colors of paper. Make at least two of each shape. Have your child match them.
- 29. Have a digital device-free day. Play active games instead.
- 30. Let your child draw on paper towels with washable markers. Spray the towels with water. Watch the colors blend!

October 2021

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- 1. Look at a school bus with your child. How is it different from a car?
- 2. Watch a show together. Talk about what was *real* and what was *pretend* in the program.
- 3. Have your child use some blocks and empty boxes to build a city.
- 4. Remind your child of safety rules for car trips, such as wearing a seat belt and keeping arms inside the car.
- 5. Ask your child, "What would you do if you were the parent for a day?"
- 6. Put pebbles or other small items in a jar. Ask your child to guess how many there are. Count them together.
- 7. Ask your child to draw a picture for a loved one.
- 8. With your child, smell different things and describe their scents.
- 9. Help your child rake some leaves onto a sheet. Lift the sheet up quickly and then slowly. Watch the different ways the leaves float.
- 10. "I'd love to!" Use these words when your child asks you to play, read or do a puzzle with her.
- 11. Create a special place in your home to store library books. Refresh your selection often.
- 12. Make a time line of your child's day. Let him illustrate it with drawings or magazine cutouts.
- 13. Talk with your child about happy and sad feelings. What things can cause each kind of feeling?
- 14. Line up chairs like a train. Ask your child to sit *ahead* of them, *behind* them, *beside* them and *on* them.
- 15. Help your child practice tying shoelaces.
- 16. Use three words that are new to your child at the dinner table tonight.
- 17. Read the comics to your child. Preschoolers especially love the ones with sound words like *thunk!*
- 18. Go outside and blow bubbles. See if your child can catch one without breaking it.
- 19. At snack time, have your child alternate celery and carrot sticks to make a pattern.
- 20. Make sure your child knows her street address. Go outside and look at the house or building number together.
- 21. Set out different sized pots and their lids. Ask your child to put the lids on the matching pots.
- 22. Stand facing your child. Have him pretend to be a mirror and imitate all your movements. Then trade places.
- 23. Pick a color. As a family, wear, eat and look for items of that color today.
- 24. Read three poems with your child today.
- 25. Help your child practice following directions. Say, for example, "Take some socks off this laundry pile and make a smaller pile."
- 26. Create a book about your child. Help her make handprints and footprints on paper with paint.
- 27. Ask your child to close his eyes and describe the sounds he hears.
- 28. Show your child a picture of a rainbow. Can she name the colors?
- 29. Have a counting day. Count stairs as you climb them, cars as they pass, stars as you spot them.
- 30. Practice making opposite statements. You say, "The chair is *inside*." Your child says, "The chair is *outside*."
- 31. Record your child talking about an important event in his life.

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November 2021

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- 1. Keep track of the moon's phases for a month. Your child can draw the moon's shape on the calendar each night.
- 2. Teach your child about uppercase and lowercase letters. Demonstrate how each letter can be written in different ways.
- 3. Look outside together at least three times and describe the weather with words such as *sunny*, *cloudy* or *rainy*.
- 4. Help your child make a collage from odds and ends around the house, such as ribbons, string, buttons, etc.
- 5. Work on balance today. Have your child walk backward, then stand on one foot, and then walk in a straight line.
- 6. Have a TV- and video-free evening. Listen to music together instead.
- 7. Help your child act out a scene from a story that is familiar to her.
- 8. Cover an item, such as a leaf, with paper. Have your child rub the top of the paper with a crayon to make an art rubbing.
- 9. Invent a new drink with your child. Mix two kinds of juice, for example. Write down your recipe.
- 10. Strengthen eye-hand coordination by helping your child pour water or uncooked rice from one container into another.
- 11. Imitate an animal and ask your child to guess what you are.
- 12. Remove three items from your purse or pocket. Show them to your child. Put them away. Can he recall what they were?
- 13. Tell your child a story about when you were little.
- 14. Discuss things you are thankful for. Say that your child is at the top of your list.
- 15. Spend a half hour reading together today. Let your child pick the books you will read.
- 16. Talk about the difference between pets and wild animals. Ask your child if a dog makes a good pet. How about a tiger?
- 17. Make a "can-do" list of your child's accomplishments. Post the list.
- 18. Stretch a rope on the ground. Show your child how to jump over it from side to side.
- 19. At dinner, have each family member give every other person at the table a compliment.
- 20. Exercise with your child today. Try touching your toes, doing sit-ups, running in place or stretching your arms and legs.
- 21. Look for pictures that show people's expressions. Ask your child how each person feels.
- 22. Discuss the meaning of the words *today*, *yesterday* and *tomorrow* with your child.
- 23. Look around for different textures. Can your child find something hard? Soft? Bumpy?
- 24. Cut out pairs of pictures (two dogs, two houses, etc.). Paste on index cards. Place face down. Let your child flip cards and match the pairs.
- 25. Ask your child what she is thankful for today.
- 26. Sing a song with your child and clap along to the rhythm.
- 27. Make your own wrapping paper. Get a roll of white freezer paper and let your child decorate it.
- 28. Have your child rub two stones together for two minutes. Can he feel the heat generated? This is caused by friction.
- 29. Teach "concept" words, such as *warm*, *cold*, *under* and *over*.
- 30. Tell your child a story. Ask her to listen for one word, like *dog*. Tell her to clap each time she hears you say the word.

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