October 2021

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

1. Choose an object, such as a paper clip. Ask your child to figure out different ways to use it. This promotes creativity and problem-solving.
2. Turn chores into a game. Assign each chore a number and have your child roll a die to see which one he gets.
3. With your child, time different activities you and she do in a day.
4. When your child is unsuccessful, ask, “How would you do it differently next time?”
5. If your child mentions a bully, listen. Tell the school if there is a problem.
6. Read your child’s reading assignment together. Then ask your child to tell you about it in his own words.
7. Let your child see you keep your temper when you are angry. Instead of yelling, calmly talk about how you feel.
8. Today is the 150th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Develop a family plan in case of a fire in your home.
9. Bake cupcakes with your child. Use colors of icing to demonstrate fractions of the cakes—halves, fourths or thirds.
10. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don’t favor.
11. Teach your child ways to handle stress—exercising, getting enough sleep, talking about problems.
12. Pick a category. Ask your child to pick a letter. How many items from the category begin with that letter?
13. Look through a newspaper with your child. What headlines interest her? Read an article together and discuss it.
14. If you haven’t had a conference with your child’s teacher yet, plan to do so.
15. Give your child a calendar. Help him use it to keep track of assignments, tests and school activities.
16. Think about the rules you have for your child. Are they age-appropriate?
17. Let your child plan dinner. How many food groups can she include?
18. With your child, learn to count to 10 in two foreign languages.
19. Share family history with your child. Look at photos and tell stories.
20. Help your child calculate the average age of your family members. Add up ages and then divide by number of people.
21. Ask your child about the best present he ever got. What made it special?
22. Create a joke book. You and your child can add jokes you read or hear.
23. Start a project with your child, such as building a model or a dollhouse. Make plans to work on it together regularly.
24. Help your child go online to research events that occurred on the day she was born.
25. Encourage your child to start a collection. Collecting can boost sorting and research skills.
26. Tell your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
27. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
28. Ask your child to read to you as you’re cleaning up after a meal. Or read to your child as he cleans up!
29. Have everyone write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read the lists out loud at dinner.
30. Find pictures of people. Ask your child to write funny captions about what they are thinking or doing.
31. Talk about careers with your child. What would she like to do?