

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help students
do better in school.*

PS 101 School in the Gardens
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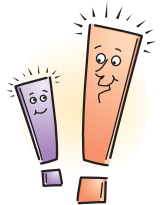
September • October • November 2011

September 2011

- 1. Notice all the ways your family uses writing throughout the day.
- 2. Do you have a computer in your home? Make sure it's in a spot where you can monitor your child's activities.
- 3. Use shoe boxes to create a mailbox for each family member.
- 4. Take a walk. See if your child can identify the trees you pass.
- 5. Make sure your child has access to basic reference books when she studies (atlas, dictionary, thesaurus).
- 6. Ask for a list of school rules and post them on your refrigerator.
- 7. Use math to give your child instructions. For example, ask your child to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
- 8. It's International Literacy Day. Talk about why reading is important.
- 9. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps he'll take to reach it. Post the goal in a visible spot.
- 10. Provide a regular place to display your child's best schoolwork. Change the display often.
- 11. Choose a place for things that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each day.
- 12. Set a regular time for homework this school year.
- 13. Ask questions about your child's day.
- 14. Label one special place for important papers—a box, basket or folder.
- 15. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
- 16. Ask your child to tell you one thing she learned in school today. Share one thing you learned today.
- 17. If your child is watching TV, ask him to turn off the sound. Have him create his own story to go with the images.

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- 18. Find something small enough to fit in your pocket. Have your child write (or tell you) a story about it.
- 19. Make an "emergency reading kit" for the car.
- 20. Teach your child how to handle stress—exercise, talk about problems.
- 21. Practice making decisions as a family.
- 22. Talk about current events at the dinner table.
- 23. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 24. Look in the weather section of the newspaper with your child. What are the highs and lows today?
- 25. Take an imaginary space trip with your child. What would your spaceship look like? Which planets would you visit?
- 26. Johnny Appleseed was born in 1774. Visit a grocery store. Count the different types of apples you see.
- 27. Tonight, allow a few minutes after the light is off for quiet conversation with your child.
- 28. As a family, talk about the "best" and "worst" parts of your days.
- 29. Help your child organize her room.
- 30. Talk with your child about the importance of doing his best. Look for examples of people who do their best.



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October 2011

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- 1. Review emergency contacts with your child.
- 2. Start a family savings jar. Together, decide on what the goal will be and how much to donate!
- 3. With your child, estimate the number of socks in her drawer. Then count to find out the exact number.
- 4. When your child brings home schoolwork, focus on what is right *before* noting what is wrong.
- 5. Talk about books you loved when you were your child's age.
- 6. Help your child find the best time to do homework.
- 7. At the dinner table, put a price on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the cost of the meal.
- 8. Celebrate National Popcorn Poppin' Month with your child!
- 9. Let your child quiz you about things he is learning in school.
- 10. Celebrate School Lunch Week. Talk with your child about nutritious food choices for lunch.
- 11. Pay your child a compliment today.
- 12. It's Fire Prevention Week. Plan a safe escape in case of a fire.
- 13. Think of something your child and you would like to learn, such as how to knit a scarf. Check out a how-to book.
- 14. Create an art gallery. Display your child's artwork.
- 15. Let your child see you reading today.
- 16. With your child, make a fall table decoration.
- 17. Write a nice note and tuck it into your child's backpack.
- 18. Have a "silent supper." During dessert, have everyone share what they were thinking about.



- 19. Bake cookies with your child, but double the recipe. Help her figure out how much of each ingredient you will need.
- 20. Flash cards are a great way to memorize facts. Take them along in the car and use travel time for review.
- 21. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you.
- 22. Set aside some time today to work on a hobby with your child.
- 23. Together, use the television listings to plan your child's viewing this week. Limit how much she watches.
- 24. Tell your child, "I love you."
- 25. Which family member can name the most parts of the body?
- 26. What's the average age of members of your family? (Add up ages, divide by number of family members.)
- 27. Let your child choose a newspaper headline and turn it into a question. Does the article answer the question?
- 28. If your child is just learning to read, check out library books with "read-along" audio books.
- 29. Sing a familiar song to your child and leave out some words. Does he know which words you left out?
- 30. Give your child a hug today.
- 31. Learn how to say "I love you" in three different languages.

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November 2011

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- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Plan not to let your child miss any school around the holidays.
- 3. Let your child pick a color and try to spot it everywhere she goes today.
- 4. Have your child read to you as you're cleaning up after supper. Or read to your child as he cleans up!
- 5. Watch a TV show with your child. Talk about decisions the characters made. What would your child have done?
- 6. It's the birthday of James Naismith, inventor of basketball. Find a court and shoot some hoops with your child.
- 7. Learn more about an interesting news story with your child.
- 8. Sponsor a "guess that number" contest: "How many noodles are in this bag?" "How many cookies are in that package?"
- 9. Have everyone write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read your lists aloud at dinner.
- 10. Look in the newspaper for things to do as a family this month.
- 11. Have your child write a story from an interesting point of view, such as a birthday party from a present's point of view.
- 12. Take a "trip" to Europe, Africa or Asia on the Internet or in a book.
- 13. Ask your child to invent something to make life easier.
- 14. Today is the birthday of Claude Monet, an artist. Paint a picture.
- 15. Teach your child how to take her pulse. Have her jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?
- 16. Talk to your child about how to handle peer pressure to cheat.
- 17. Look for "vanity" license plates on the road. Try to figure out what they mean.

- 18. Plan a reading dinner. Everyone can bring a book to the table!
- 19. Ask your child to name his favorite sport.
- 20. Have everyone pitch in for a half-hour "blitz" of house cleaning. It teaches children responsibility.
- 21. Discuss a book your child likes.
- 22. Teach your child to make a healthy snack. Enjoy it together.
- 23. Go on a map search through the newspaper. How many maps can your child find?
- 24. Make a paper cornucopia with your child. Fill it with the list of all the things that make your family grateful.
- 25. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- 26. Have your child make a chart of the birds she sees outside the window—by type of bird and time of day.
- 27. See who in your family can name the most relatives.
- 28. Kids need five servings of vegetables and fruits every day. Choose a new fruit to enjoy today.
- 29. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 30. Don't watch TV tonight. Play games together instead.



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