

Daily Learning Planner

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

Sturgeon School Division



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2011

September 2011

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

- 1. Give your child a calendar. Encourage him to keep track of school assignments and events.
- 2. It's Library Card Sign-Up Month. Does your child have a library card?
- 3. Choose a place to keep library books. Your child will always be able to find something to read.
- 4. Suggest that your child clean out her backpack on Sundays. She'll start the week organized.
- 5. Talk about your child's summer. Can he name three things he learned?
- 6. Help your child start a homework routine. She should pick a regular time and place to study.
- 7. How would your child handle peer pressure to drink or smoke? Discuss.
- 8. It's International Literacy Day. Head to the library with your child.
- 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. As a family, create a routine that will make mornings easier for everyone.
- 11. Cut out an article or comic strip your child will enjoy.
- 12. Learn about special events at school. Make plans to attend at least one.
- 13. Enjoy some physical activity with your child today.
- 14. Expect your child to study every day, even if she doesn't have any homework.
- 15. Have your child tell you about one of his teachers.
- 16. Solve an everyday math problem with your child, such as how many gallons of gas you can get with \$20.
- 17. Make tonight "kids' night" in the kitchen.
- 18. Take advantage of opportunities to talk with your child while doing chores or errands.
- 19. Is your child's room messy? Have her try a 15-minute pickup blitz before she goes out.
- 20. Discuss your child's homework assignments with him. Make this a daily habit.
- 21. Tell your child about a time when your values helped you make a decision.
- 22. It's the first day of fall. Go for a walk and look for seasonal changes.
- 23. Help your child make a budget.
- 24. Ask your child about something she's reading. What is it about? What are the characters like?
- 25. Let your child choose a decoration for his room to build creativity.
- 26. Ask your child who her role models are and why. You may learn something new about her.
- 27. Ask your child, "Is it more important to *be the best*, or to *do your best*?"
- 28. Make a "one-a-day" rule: Family members will eat at least one meal together every day.
- 29. Help your child make a planning sheet for a large school project. Divide the work into several parts with deadlines.
- 30. Make a point to meet your child's favorite teacher.



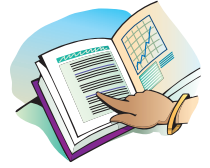
Helping Students Learn
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

October 2011

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- 1. Have your child teach you some slang he and his friends use.
- 2. Ask your child how she feels the school year is going so far.
- 3. Talk with your child about a current event that is happening outside your country. How could it affect you?
- 4. Put an encouraging note in your child's lunch or backpack.
- 5. Encourage your child to think about abstract concepts, like *character*.
- 6. Take a compass with you in the car. Let your child keep track of which direction you're going
- 7. Discuss the many meanings of "time." "It's time for dinner," "I had the time of my life." Think of other examples.
- 8. Celebrate National Popcorn Poppin' Month with your child!
- 9. When your child brings home a test, notice which answers he got right. Help him think about how he succeeded.
- 10. We celebrate Columbus Day today. Remind your child that Columbus spotted America in 1492.
- 11. Ask your child what she likes best about each of her friends.
- 12. Take a trip to the library. Show your child a book you loved at his age.
- 13. Say to your child, "If there's anything you need to talk about, remember I'm here to listen."
- 14. Show your child how to break large assignments into small parts.
- 15. Tell your child that you truly believe she can be successful.
- 16. Shop for groceries with your child. Use math to find the best deals.
- 17. Ask your child to figure out how often his heart beats in a minute. (Count beats for 15 seconds. Multiply by four.)

- 18. Give your child a genuine compliment. Make it specific, such as, "You have pretty handwriting."
- 19. Have your child practice shaking hands and making eye contact. It will make social situations easier.
- 20. Browse through your child's text books. Talk about what she's studying.
- 21. Ask your child which of his classes he finds most interesting.
- 22. It's Make a Difference Day. Talk about ways your family could make your community a nicer place.
- 23. Help your child focus on positive aspects of failure.
- 24. Start a family scrapbook.
- 25. See how many words you can use to describe the day's weather. For example: *foggy, cloudy, humid, wet, stifling*.
- 26. Teach your child about *empathy*. Help her think about how others feel.
- 27. Talk with your child about the importance of self-respect.
- 28. Ask your child about his hardest class. What might make it easier?
- 29. Teach your child a literary term, such as *onomatopoeia*. (Words that sound like the objects or actions they refer to—buzz, drip, swoosh.)
- 30. Plan one-on-one time with your child today.
- 31. Suggest a few activities that your child can do alone.



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November 2011

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- 1. Encourage your child to go to school dances and plays. It's a great way to meet new friends.
- 2. Helping kids with homework can be tough. Ask your child to teach you one of the lessons.
- 3. Start a family bulletin board. Everyone can post things they find interesting. Talk about the posts.
- 4. Visit the library with your child. Check out some books to read over the weekend.
- 5. Ask your child, "What's the most hectic part of our day?" Brainstorm about how to make it more organized.
- 6. Look through the classified ads with your child. Does she see her dream job? What about it appeals to her?
- 7. Remind your child of a time when persistence helped him succeed.
- 8. It's election day in the U.S. Talk to your child about voting.
- 9. Ask your child to turn on lively music during chore time.
- 10. Together, find a new word in the dictionary. Use it three times today.
- 11. Schedule some one-on-one time with your child this month.
- 12. Allow your child to rearrange her room. Show respect for her choices.
- 13. Can your child make change for a dollar using different combinations of coins?
- 14. Tell your child at least twice a day that you love him. Before and after school are good times.
- 15. Think of some phrases, such as "Beauty is only skin deep" and "Winning isn't everything." Discuss what they mean.
- 16. Talk with your child about whether her classes are challenging enough for her.



- 17. When your child voices an opinion, ask him why he feels that way.
- 18. Take your child to a high school sporting event. Talk about her goals for high school.
- 19. Let your child plan an entire meal, as long as he includes important food groups. Then cook it together.
- 20. Ask your child what she would do with a million dollars.
- 21. Give your child a journal. Remember that it's for his eyes only!
- 22. Take your child to a service station. Make sure she knows how to check the oil and fill the tank with gasoline.
- 23. Ask your child to name two ways he can be a better friend.
- 24. At dinner, have each family member name three things he or she is thankful for.
- 25. Set a TV schedule with your child.
- 26. Encourage your child to write a letter to a long-distance relative.
- 27. Ask your child's opinion on something. Show respect for her views.
- 28. Suggest that your child keep a homework diary. Which study methods work best for him?
- 29. Let your child choose from a list of chores.
- 30. Ask your child a specific question about school, such as "Which class is your favorite?"

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