

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Onalaska Elementary School



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## December 2019

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

- 1. Give your child three sincere, specific compliments today.
- 2. Let your child use sponges to stamp paint on a piece of paper. Use his finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- 3. Take turns naming animals and imitating the sounds they make.
- 4. Look online or in the newspaper for a list of festive events. Plan to attend one as a family this month.
- 5. Start a puzzle with your child. Work on it together when you have extra time.
- 6. Have your child draw a picture of something that describes and defines December.
- 7. Read a fairy tale with your child. Talk about favorite parts of the story.
- 8. Create a costume box for your child. Add yard sale treasures such as gloves, scarves and shoes.
- 9. Let your child stack three marshmallows to make a snowman.
- 10. Talk to your child about the holiday traditions of other cultures. Read a book about holidays together.
- 11. Tie three-foot lengths of ribbon to a plastic shower curtain ring. Let your child wave and twirl it.
- 12. Help your child make musical instruments from items around your house. Have a concert.
- 13. Take a family walk in the evening. Look for the moon and the stars.
- 14. At the library, check out two books about your child's favorite subject.
- 15. Help your child measure something with a ruler. Count the inches together.
- 16. Take turns telling a story. Say, "There once was a kitten who lived ... ." Have your child finish the sentence.
- 17. Give your child a folded paper napkin. Help her cut holes into the folded edges. Open to reveal a snowflake!
- 18. Promote indoor exercise when the weather is too wet or cold to go out.
- 19. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- 20. If your family will be traveling this month, pack a bag of toys to keep your child entertained on the journey. Give them to him one by one.
- 21. Brainstorm with your child about fun things to do in the winter.
- 22. Choose a book with an author's name that begins with A. Read it together. Next, read a B book.
- 23. Cut small circles out of wax paper with a hole puncher. Fill a jar with water, add the circles and screw on the lid. Shake—it's a snow globe!
- 24. Choose a book with lots of pictures. Ask your child to tell you the story based on the illustrations.
- 25. Have your child draw a picture of all the people she loves.
- 26. Use a spoon as a ruler and see how many "spoons" tall your child is.
- 27. Play musical chairs with the entire family.
- 28. Take a counting walk with your child. Pick something to count (cars, signs, bikes) and keep track.
- 29. Pretend to be snowflakes. How would you move in a light wind?
- 30. Help your child think about what he's learned this year.
- 31. Talk with your child about things you'll do together in the new year.

**Helping Children Learn**  
TIPS FAMILIES CAN USE TO HELP CHILDREN DO BETTER IN SCHOOL

