

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help children
prepare for school

Onalaska Elementary School



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Set a goal for the day with your child. Think of fun ways to reach it.
- 2. Read a story to your child. In the middle, stop and ask your child how she would end it.
- 3. Have your child practice getting dressed by staging a fashion show. Let him put on his favorite outfits.
- 4. Give your child play dough, a rolling pin and plastic cookie cutters. Let her roll out the dough and cut out “cookies” from it.
- 5. Ask your child to describe a happy family memory.
- 6. Does your child need new books? Organize a neighborhood book swap.
- 7. Encourage imagination with silly questions: “Do cars need sleep?”
- 8. Talk about where animals live. Which animals would your child expect to see in the jungle? How about underground?
- 9. Before going out with your child, give him time to say goodbye to his favorite things.
- 10. Take your child to a park or playground. Encourage her to swing, climb and use the slide.
- 11. Cover one of your child’s drawings with clear contact paper or packing tape. Let him use it as a placemat.
- 12. Share something of yours with your child today. It’s the best way to teach her to share with others.
- 13. Have your child draw on white paper with a white candle. His picture will magically appear when he paints over it with watercolors.
- 14. Encourage your child to try two motor tasks at the same time—for example, clapping hands while walking.
- 15. Go on a walk and notice street signs. How many different shapes can you and your child find?
- 16. Have your child make a collage of a face using features cut out from pictures of people in magazines.
- 17. Let your child help make a salad for dinner. She can tear lettuce.
- 18. Tap out a very simple rhythm. See if your child can copy it.
- 19. Ask your child to name things that are *noisy* and things that are *quiet*.
- 20. Play the I Spy game. Say “I spy something orange.” Let your child guess what it is. Then it’s his turn to “spy” something.
- 21. Fill a plastic jug with dried beans to make a *maraca*.
- 22. Play board or card games as a family tonight.
- 23. Read a story to your child and ask her to illustrate it.
- 24. Involve your child in a job you have been meaning to do. Organizing toys is a great idea.
- 25. Together, search for things that are purple—clothes, foods, toys, etc.
- 26. Tell your child family stories you can remember from when you were a child.
- 27. Have your child stand on one foot. Count how long he can balance.
- 28. Talk about things you are thankful for. Tell your child she’s at the top of the list.
- 29. Make up a song featuring your child’s name.
- 30. Visit a bakery. Share a treat and think of words to describe it, such as *luscious*.

Helping Children Learn
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

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