

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help students
do well in school

Lafourche Parish School Board



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Have your child teach you some slang she and her friends use.
- 2. Fitting in is crucial to middle schoolers. Minimize your battles with your child over clothes and hair.
- 3. Talk with your child about a current event in another country. How could it affect you?
- 4. Have your child solve silly math problems: "How many hours until your birthday?"
- 5. See how many words you and your child can use to describe today's weather. For example: *brisk, balmy, breezy, bracing*.
- 6. Give your child a new responsibility. Praise him for being mature enough to handle it.
- 7. Discuss the many meanings of the word *time*. "It's *time* for dinner," "I had the *time* of my life." What other examples can your child think of?
- 8. Help your child find a physical activity or sport she enjoys.
- 9. When your child brings home a test, first notice which answers he got right. Help him think about what he did to succeed with them.
- 10. Mention how something you studied in school has helped you at work or in running a home.
- 11. Ask your child what she likes best about each of her friends.
- 12. Test observation skills. Challenge each other to describe someone you just passed on the street.
- 13. Say to your child, "If there's anything you want to talk about, remember I'm here to listen."
- 14. Have your child use the TV listings to plan his viewing for the week.
- 15. Tell your child that you truly believe she can be successful.
- 16. Discipline with consequences that teach rather than punish.
- 17. Ask your child to figure out how often his heart beats in a minute. (Count beats for 15 seconds. Multiply by four.)
- 18. Limit drinks with caffeine at night. They can keep your child from getting much-needed sleep.
- 19. Have your child practice shaking hands and making eye contact. It will make social situations easier.
- 20. Take advantage of time in the car with your child. You can talk privately without interruption.
- 21. Ask your child which of her classes she finds most interesting and why.
- 22. Help your child make his own dictionary of vocabulary words.
- 23. Encourage your child to think about abstract concepts, like *character*.
- 24. Have your child spend 10 minutes at night getting ready for the next day. Mornings will be calmer.
- 25. Help your child focus on what she can learn from mistakes.
- 26. Plan a weekend family activity. Let your child invite a friend.
- 27. Talk with your child about the importance of self-respect.
- 28. Ask your child to come up with dinner ideas for the week.
- 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. Monitor your child's use of the internet and social media.
- 31. Suggest a few activities that your child can do alone.

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