

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school.*

New Ulm Diocese Catholic Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

April 2017

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

- 1. Ask your child, "What do you think middle school will be like?"
- 2. Have your child choose a business or service and write a funny ad for it.
- 3. Turn on some music that has no words. Give your child a crayon and paper and ask him to "draw the music."
- 4. Have your child give you a "six o'clock report" about what happened at school today. What's the lead story?
- 5. Teach your child about *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *bass* (fish and instrument).
- 6. Challenge your child to start her own club.
- 7. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after his birth.
- 8. Consider giving your child an allowance so she can practice managing her own money.
- 9. Ask your child to think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
- 10. Encourage your child to keep a gratitude journal. Each day, have him write two things he is grateful for.
- 11. Point to a country on a globe or in an atlas. With your child, figure out what time it is there.
- 12. Have a silly supper tonight. Grab a blanket and sit on the floor. Serve finger foods such as fruit, carrot sticks, cheese and popcorn.
- 13. Have everyone bring a joke to the dinner table. Laughter is the best dinner music!
- 14. Think up some "what if" questions to start conversations with your child: "What if we walked on our hands?" "What if cats could talk?"
- 15. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing you have done for someone in our family?"
- 16. Can you and your child communicate without words? Try it and see.
- 17. Help your child see the positive side of a difficult situation. "This line is long, but it gives us time to play a game while we wait."
- 18. At bedtime, stay in your child's room after the light is off and have a quiet conversation with her.
- 19. Have your child write math facts on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 20. Make a bookmark. On a piece of thin cardboard, have your child draw a scene or write a quote from a book.
- 21. Measure how far your child can jump. Can he estimate how many jumps it would take to go around your house?
- 22. Discuss how recycling paper helps save natural resources.
- 23. Challenge your child to reorganize your food pantry.
- 24. Show your child how to make and use a to-do list. It can help her stay on track with chores and schoolwork.
- 25. Take a walk with your child. Look for evidence of animals in the area.
- 26. Have your child write his name in a vertical column. He can use each letter to begin a line of a poem.
- 27. Go outside with your child and look for "pictures" in the clouds.
- 28. Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- 29. Make up a secret code with your child. Use the code to send messages to each other.
- 30. Watch a nature program on TV together.



Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

