September 2010

1. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps she’ll take to reach it. Post the goal in a visible spot.
2. Give your child a genuine compliment. Make it specific, such as, “You have pretty handwriting.”
3. Think of the next event that will require giving a gift. Brainstorm about something your child can make to give.
4. Shop with your child. Use math to find the best deals.
5. Help your child decide how he’ll organize his school notebooks and folders.
6. Let your child help you research a major purchase. List important features and ask your child to find the best deal.
7. Have your child play you her favorite song. Play a song you loved at her age.
8. Plan a family outing. Allow your child to invite a friend.
9. Look over your child’s homework. Give compliments and helpful criticism.
10. Give your child a new responsibility. Praise him for being mature enough to handle it.
11. Have your child start an “anger diary.” She can write down when and why she gets angry and how she handles it.
12. Suggest that your child clean out his backpack on Sundays. He’ll start the week organized.
13. Give your child a calendar. Encourage her to keep track of school assignments and events.
14. Ask your child about his hardest school subject. What might make it easier?
15. Have your child practice shaking hands and making eye contact. It will make social situations easier.
16. Suggest that your child write a family newsletter. She can mail it to relatives.
17. Help your child find items your family no longer uses and give them to charity.
18. Let your child make a decision, such as what to have for dinner.
19. Ask your child’s opinion on something.
20. Take a trip to the library. Show your child a book you loved at his age.
21. Learn about your state or country’s flag. What does it represent?
22. It’s the first day of fall! Go for a walk and look for seasonal changes.
23. Discuss your child’s homework assignments with her. Make this a daily habit.
24. Share a poem with your child. How does he interpret it?
25. Suggest your child write a thank-you note to someone who has helped her.
26. Discuss what to do in a safety-related situation, such as when a stranger calls.
27. Ask your child a specific question about school, such as “What is your favorite class?”
28. Keep a map or globe visible in your home. Your child will learn by seeing it regularly.
29. Ask your family to pick one habit they’d like to change. Practice the new habit for 21 days to help it “stick.”
30. Tell your child something you love and admire about him.
October 2010

1. Bake cookies with your child. Decorate them creatively.
2. Take a compass with you in the car. Let your child keep track of which direction you’re going.
3. Learn about special events at your child’s school. Make plans to attend at least one.
4. Discuss the importance of laws with your child. What if there were none? What if they were ignored?
5. Help your child make a savings plan for a special purchase.
6. Ask your child how she feels the school year is going so far.
7. Tell your child a joke today.
8. Make a “one-a-day” rule: Family members will eat one meal together every day.
9. Talk with your child about what character traits he has that will eventually help him in the workplace.
10. Take advantage of opportunities to talk with your child while doing chores or errands.
11. As a family, create a routine that will make mornings easier.
12. Next time your child is stressed out, talk about different ways to handle it. She might exercise or write in a journal.
13. Think of something your child and you would like to learn. Check out a how-to book at the library.
14. Call out words from the dictionary during breakfast. See who can spell them.
15. Before your middle schooler attends a party, make sure it will be supervised.
16. Tell your child at least twice a day that you love him.
17. Let your child take over a new responsibility.
18. Ask your child who her role models are and why.
19. Watch a TV show with your child. Notice how men and women are portrayed. Are the characters realistic?
20. Ask your child to show you a computer skill he has learned at school.
21. Share a photo of yourself as a middle schooler. Tell your child some stories about what that age was like for you.
22. Tell your child about her relatives. Where did her grandparents grow up?
23. Encourage your child to meet at least three new people outside of her normal group of friends.
24. Plan one-on-one time with your child today.
26. Getting kids to talk can be hard. It helps to ask specific questions.
27. How would your child handle peer pressure to drink or smoke? Use role playing to practice.
28. Do you compliment more than you criticize? Compliments should outweigh criticisms three to one.
29. Play a memory game with your child. Try to remember things you each did the day before yesterday.
30. Encourage your child to clean out his locker at school.
31. Ask your child, “If you could change one thing in the entire world what would it be?” Listen carefully to her answer.

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

1. This is the last day in the U.S. Tell your child about the importance of voting.
2. Ask your child to make a graph of family habits. How long does each person sleep? Who reads the most?
3. Remember that children learn from our actions more than our words. Focus on setting a good example.
4. See how many words you can use to describe the day’s weather. For example, foggy, cloudy, muggy, wet, dreary.
5. Visit a new place with your child, such as a museum.
6. Make a story with your child. Take turns adding words that start with the same sound. Example: Taylor tried tomatoes but thought they tasted terrible.
7. It’s Veterans Day in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in Canada. Talk with your child about respect for veterans.
8. Review your child’s allowance and spending habits. Make saving a priority.
9. Practice estimating with your child. How much popcorn will fit in your hand? How many cookies are in a bag?
10. Suggest that your child start a book club with friends.
11. Have you discussed sex, drugs and other tough topics with your child? Make plans to do this.
12. Declare this an Acts of Kindness Day. Make a special effort to be kind to each other.

November 2010

1. Take turns with your child making statements. Decide whether each one is fact or opinion.
2. It’s election day in the U.S. Talk to your child about the importance of voting.
3. Ask your child to make a graph of family habits. How long does each person sleep? Who reads the most?
4. Remember that children learn from our actions more than our words. Focus on setting a good example.
5. See how many words you can use to describe the day’s weather. For example, foggy, cloudy, muggy, wet, dreary.
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Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

1. Ask your child to clean out his locker at school.
2. Ask your child to make a practice test before she takes an exam.
3. Ask your child, “If you could change one thing in the entire world what would it be?” Listen carefully to her answer.