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

Red River Elementary School

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1. Watch the sun rise and set with your child. Talk about how the Earth’s movement makes the sun seem to rise in the east and set in the west.

2. Challenge everyone on math facts. Who can say the multiplication tables fastest?

3. Teach your child the meaning of homographs—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as bass (fish or instrument).

4. Brainstorm ways your family could help beautify your neighborhood.

5. Watch TV with your child and ask, "Was that show realistic?"

6. Have your child listen to different types of music. Ask him to describe how each type makes him feel.

7. Ask your child to give you a "six o’clock report" about her day. She should pretend she’s a news anchor.

8. Tell your child about the best and worst parts of your day. Ask about his.

9. Pick a category, such as animals. Then pick a letter, such as B. How many animals can your child think of that begin with that letter?

10. Talk to your child about people she admires. Ask why she admires them.


12. Have everyone tell a new joke at the dinner table.

13. Ask your child “what if” questions. "What if it never rained?" "What if everyone had the same name?"

14. Does your child know your state flower? If not, help him find it out.

15. Have your child review math facts by writing them on the sidewalk with chalk.

16. Help your child figure out the perimeter and area of her bedroom.

17. Encourage your child to write a letter or email to a friend.

18. Make today “Game Day.” Everyone pick a favorite game for the family to play together.

19. Watch a new kind of TV program with your child, such as a sporting event or a nature show. Talk about what you learned.

20. Ask, “How many of your lifetimes has Grandma lived? Aunt Sue?”

21. Taste-test different types of apples with your child.

22. Start telling a story to your child. Have him write an ending for it.

23. Ask your child what she thinks the world will be like in 10 years.

24. Make a recording of math facts with your child.

25. Open an atlas and point to a country. With your child, figure out what time it is there.

26. Have your child use yarn to create two different shapes, each with five sides. Repeat with six or seven sides.

27. Take a “trip” to the Caribbean. Use books or a computer for research. What is life like for school children there?

28. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.

29. Go on a map search through the newspaper. How many maps can your child find?

30. Challenge your child to draw an imaginary garden. How many different colors can he use?