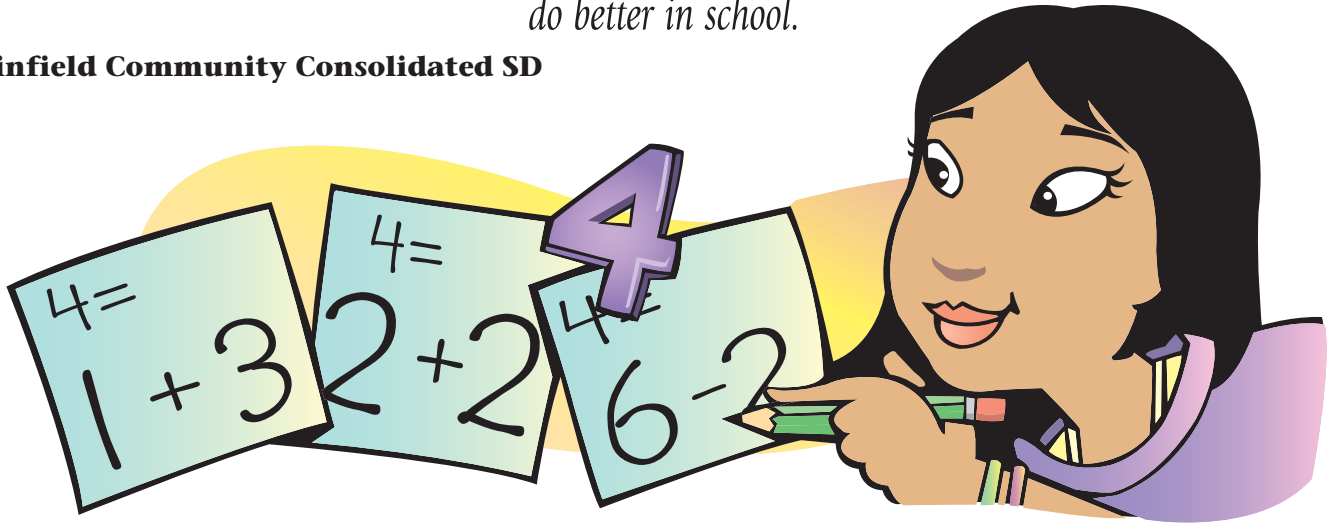


Daily Learning Planner

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

Plainfield Community Consolidated SD



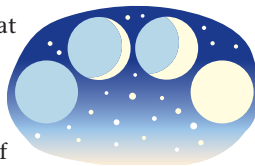
THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

DECEMBER • JANUARY • FEBRUARY • 2006-2007

December 2006

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

- 1. Create and keep a family logbook. Everyone can jot down and read thoughts, reminders and accomplishments.
- 2. Ask your child, "What is the difference between liking something and loving something?"
- 3. Ask your child to write down the items you need before you go to the grocery store.
- 4. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- 5. Talk with your child about what it means to be a good citizen.
- 6. Count the days until a special event. Link that number of paper strips to make a chain. Remove one link each day.
- 7. Build a house out of cards with your child. Make it as stable as possible.
- 8. Talk about how you use numbers at home—setting the VCR or the oven timer.
- 9. Have an indoor snowball fight with cotton balls.
- 10. Use a paper plate and two strips of paper to make a practice clock. Help your child practice telling time.
- 11. Let your child fill a paper bag with air. Have her hold it tightly closed and hit it hard to make a loud noise.
- 12. At bedtime, ask your child to name the hardest and best parts of his day.
- 13. With your child, use an Almanac to find out about the phases of the moon. Compare it with what you see at night.
- 14. Look in the newspaper for interesting words. Help your child look them up in a dictionary.
- 15. Begin telling a story, and when you get to an exciting part, stop talking and let your child make up the rest.
- 16. Give your child a cereal box or a soup can. Have her look for certain letters or words on them.
- 17. Let your child clean some dirty pennies with catsup. Research together why this works.
- 18. Read a book about community service with your child. Talk about the importance of helping others.
- 19. Help your child make flash cards of vocabulary words.
- 20. Challenge your child to make music by strumming on stretched rubber bands.
- 21. Leave a note tucked under your child's pillow for him to find at bedtime.
- 22. Go to a travel agency with your child. Let her pick out travel brochures of places she'd like to visit.
- 23. Use time in the car to review homework, such as spelling words.
- 24. Find pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child to make up a story about each picture.
- 25. Look through a photo album with your child. Tell stories about the pictures you see.
- 26. Help your child set a goal for this week.
- 27. Make an "I am Special" scrapbook with your child.
- 28. Ask your child to listen to music in the dark and concentrate on the sounds.
- 29. Ask your child to name her favorite thing about you.
- 30. Ask your child, "What would you do with a million dollars?"
- 31. Measure your child. How much did he grow this year?



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

Elementary Edition

January 2007

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- 1. Have a tea party with your child. Sip tea and eat cookies.
- 2. Make a *rebus* with your child—a story that replaces some words with pictures.
- 3. Ask your child how he feels today. Talk about feelings.
- 4. Try eating with chopsticks tonight.
- 5. Have a family dinner by candlelight. Have each person share their favorite part of their day.
- 6. Ask your child to figure out how many miles your car goes on one gallon of gas.
- 7. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books.
- 8. Get in your pajamas early tonight and have a pajama party with your child.
- 9. Find something small enough to fit in your pocket. Have your child write a story about it.
- 10. Ask your child to pick five words to describe herself.
- 11. Make an “emergency reading kit” for the car.
- 12. Practice using the Internet together. Your local library may have computers available.
- 13. Discuss your child’s courage. List times when he tackled challenges, such as learning to ride a bike.
- 14. Talk with your child about times when it’s important to say “no,” even to an adult.
- 15. Let your child pick what to wear and where to study today.
- 16. Ask your child about her earliest memories as a child.
- 17. Help your child set up dominos in a pattern and then have him knock them down.
- 18. Ask your child to read you an article while you make dinner.
- 19. Show your child which way is *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*.
- 20. Research another culture and plan an evening to celebrate it.

- 21. Watch for people who are laughing throughout your day.
- 22. Play guess that number. How many cookies in the package? How many chips in the bag?
- 23. While in the car today, ask your child to guess how many passengers will be inside cars as they approach.
- 24. Help your child plan ahead. Talk about next weekend. What needs to be done to prepare for a family activity?
- 25. Ask your child what she would do if her friends dared her to steal a candy bar.
- 26. Help your child find instructions at the library for making a volcano of vinegar and baking soda.
- 27. Set aside a half hour for writing with your child.
- 28. Enjoy some physical activity with your child.
- 29. Make a chore chart with your child. List chores he’s responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 30. Ask your child, “What is the one thing you are looking forward to right now?”
- 31. Ask your child how she helped others today.



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February 2007

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

- 1. Solve math problems with yummy treats. Use chocolate chips or gummy bears for adding and subtracting.
- 2. Ask your child to tell you his favorite joke.
- 3. Have your child teach you something she’s learning.
- 4. Share a book about science with your child today.
- 5. Ask your child to sound out the words on your grocery list.
- 6. Create a board game with your child. Use poster board, coins for game pieces, magic markers, index cards and dice.
- 7. Ask your child, “What’s the bravest thing you have ever seen someone do?”
- 8. Share a favorite quote with your child.
- 9. Ask your child to create a comic strip of a story he knows.
- 10. Put three items in a bag. Have your child and a friend use them as props for a five-minute skit.
- 11. Give your child the responsibility of putting her clean clothes away.
- 12. With your child, read the same news story in two different publications. Compare the versions.
- 13. Let your child help make dinner.
- 14. Tell your child you love him today.
- 15. Next time your kids argue, have them switch roles.
- 16. Ask your child to alphabetize her books by the author’s last name.
- 17. Teach your child how to change the batteries in a flashlight.
- 18. Play an age-appropriate board game with your child.
- 19. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.



- 20. Ask each person in your family to write a noun or adjective. Have your child put all the words in one sentence.
- 21. Ask your child to read you the review of a movie he would like to see.
- 22. List 10 of your child’s successes this week. List 10 of your own. Look at the list whenever one of you is feeling down.
- 23. Play “Concentration” with homemade flash cards. Math problems with the same answer make a pair (9×2 and $15 + 3$).
- 24. Use a kitchen timer while your child completes a task. See if she can “beat the clock.”
- 25. Ask your child to tell you a funny story.
- 26. Teach your child to wash his hands often—before every meal, after sneezing and after playing outside.
- 27. Ask your child to tell you her favorite time of year.
- 28. Ask your child, “Why do we have laws in our society?”

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