1. Think about your expectations of your child. Ask him if there’s a new responsibility he thinks he could handle.
2. Reminisce about the past year with your child. Together, list some of her accomplishments.
3. Ask your child to count how many fruits and vegetables your family eats in a day. Fewer than five? Try to improve.
4. Together, watch a movie based on a book your child has read. How are the versions similar or different?
5. Together, talk about the good and bad aspects of stress.
6. Teach your child a literary term, such as *onomatopoeia*.
7. Give your child an IOU for time to spend together.
8. Talk about the Golden Rule with your child.
9. Enjoy some physical activity with your child today.
10. Ask your child to plan and schedule a fun family night together.
11. Make a positive comment about one of your child’s friends today.
12. Cut out a review of a kids’ movie. Suggest seeing it together.
13. Together, make a collage of photos taken of your child this past year.
14. Teach your child how to sew on a button.
15. Start a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
16. With your child, look for ways to add peace and quiet to your lives.
17. Listen to your child’s favorite radio station in the car. Exchange opinions about what you hear.
18. Encourage your child to take photos during a family outing.
19. With your child, think of as many city nicknames as you can: Windy City (Chicago), Mile High City (Denver).
20. Teach your child a memory trick, such as “Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.”
21. Practice the art of compromise. Negotiate with your child about something you’re flexible on.
22. Look through old family albums. Tell your child stories about her relatives.
23. Take your child to a high school sporting event. Ask about her goals for high school.
24. Ask your child to get a schedule of his final exams. Post it and encourage him to set aside time to study in advance.
25. Let your child write to the local Chamber of Commerce for information about interesting places to visit in your town.
26. Flip through a magazine with your child. Look for messages it sends about unrealistic or unhealthy body types.
27. Practice active listening with your child. Listen carefully while she talks. Repeat what you heard in your own words.
28. Ask your child to help you figure out a way to make a favorite family recipe healthier.
29. Visit a nearby college and have a bite to eat in the snack bar.
30. What would your child like to be doing in five years? Ask.
31. When your child brings home a test, notice which answers he got right. Help him think about how he succeeded.

December 2007

December • January • February • 2007-2008

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!
January 2008

1. Suggest a few activities that your child can do alone.
2. Brainstorm about something with your child. For example, how could your family save money on electricity?
3. Ask your child, “Is there anything you wish you understood?” Then research the topic together.
4. Suggest that your child bring a calculator to the grocery store. Can he use math to help you find the best deals?
5. Ask your child about her hardest school subject. Together, brainstorm about ways to make it easier.
6. Talk with your child about his plans for the day.
7. Make a household rule as a family. Write it down, along with the consequence for breaking it.
8. Watch a weather report with your child. Can she find your town on the map? What should the temperature be today?
9. Call out words from the dictionary during breakfast. Take turns guessing how to spell and define them.
10. Make a “one-a-day” rule: Family members will eat one meal together every day. Turn off the TV and really communicate.
11. Give your child a study hint, such as doing the hardest homework first.
12. Go to an office supply store together. What products could help your child become more organized?
13. Check out an astronomy book at the library. Familiarize yourselves with constellations and planets.
14. Take a walk with your child tonight. Look for the constellations and planets you read about.
15. Ask your child what she likes most about her classes.
16. If you and your child could meet anyone from the past, who would it be? What questions would you ask?
17. Help your child think of ways to say no to smoking.

February 2008

1. Think of ways you and your child waste time. Together, find ways to improve.
2. Tell your child about a time when your values helped you make a choice.
3. Have your child estimate how long an assignment will take. Write it down. Then see how long it really takes.
4. With your child, discuss what the world would be like if there were no rules.
5. Talk with your child about your priorities.
6. Suggest your child keep a notebook handy when reading. She can list words she wants to look up in the dictionary.
7. Give your child some privacy today.
8. Have your child convert the miles you travel today into kilometers.
9. Talk with your child about substance abuse.
10. Compliment your child on something about his behavior today.
11. Ask to see your child’s homework.
12. Teach your child how to deal with a kitchen fire.
13. Ask your child, “What’s the most hectic part of our day?” Brainstorm about how to make it more organized.
14. Let each family member choose a culture. Have your child help you serve a tasty dish related to each person’s choice.
15. Visit a museum and have each family member pick a favorite work of art.
16. Send your child a letter so it will arrive in the mail for her.
17. Visit a restaurant with your child. When you get home, have him write a review of the food and the service.
18. If your family could have any animal as a pet, discuss what it would be.

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

18. Make tonight kid’s night in the kitchen.
19. Read a poem with your child.
20. Encourage your child to participate in a volunteer activity.
21. Talk with your child about how rights come with responsibilities.
22. Put on a family talent show.
23. Make a family tree with your child.
24. Read a story aloud to your child.
25. Invent something with your child.
26. Have your child estimate the weight of an object. Weigh it and see if she’s correct.
27. Encourage your child to write a letter to a teacher or coach who has positively influenced him.
28. Do a taste test with your child. Try different brands of a food you like. Which one tastes better?
29. Spend a few minutes thinking of things to thank each other for. Then, write each other thank you notes.
30. Review the goals your child set in September, and celebrate any accomplishments.
31. Help your child set—and write down—goals for the coming year. Set some goals for yourself, as well.