



TLJATIMES

A newsletter for Timothy L. Johnson Academy parents and families.
Timothy L. Johnson Academy 4615 Werling Dr., Fort Wayne, In 46806 (260) 441-8727

March 2021



We are here to serve you and your family! If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 441-8727.



Breakfast & Lunch

All students attending TLJA will receive free school meals. Timothy L. Johnson Academy has been approved to implement the Community Eligibility Provision for breakfast and lunch. This means that parents will not need to fill out the long meal application.

Dear TLJA Family,

I have to say we have an amazing group of parents. Thank you to each of you for being so flexible when we have had to make transportation changes. Thank you so much for working with us. Please be sure we have the most up to date contact information in case we need to call you when there are changes.

We are sending home an Intent to Return application with students very soon. Please fill it out and send back to save your child's spot for next year. We are already planning for the 2021-2022 school year and want you to reserve your child's place in the next grade. We have had a waiting list this year, so please let us know your plans before we fill spots with students from the waiting list. Thank you for all your support!!

Dawn Starks, TLJA Superintendent /School Leader

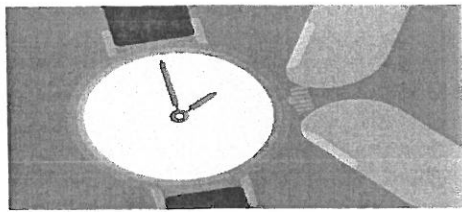
Spring
Break
will
start
April 5th
and
will end
April 9th.

Students are expected to be in dress code unless it is Jean's Day Friday.

Please be sure your child is getting enough rest in the evenings and ready to come and do their best at school.



Please be sure to read with your child at least 20 minutes every night!!

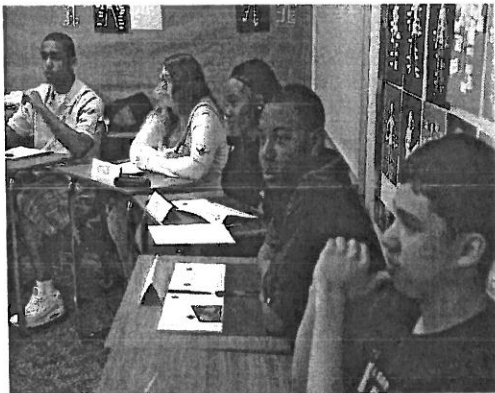


SPRING FORWARD

The dark days of winter are almost behind us - at least when it comes to the time on the clock.

Daylight saving time, the day when we move clocks ahead 1 hour, is set for Sunday, March 14 at 2 a.m. For most people, that means it will be time to "spring forward" on the clock 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13th.

The change also means there will be more daylight in the afternoon hours.



YOU'RE INVITED BACK

For all Virtual at-home learners: We would like to take this opportunity to invite you back to school to become once again an in-school learner.

Precautions have been made to ensure all of the scholars and staff remain healthy and safe. Transportation, as well, has been set up to transport scholars to and from school.

If you choose to send your scholar back, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Elementary school office at 441-8727, or the Middle school office at 543-4077. We are looking forward to hearing from you, and hoping to see many of our scholars once again at school during the school day.

Mark Your Calendar:

MARCH

12 ***NO SCHOOL FOR STAFF OR STUDENTS***

14 **REMEMBER:**
Set your clock ahead...
Daylight Saving Time

APRIL

2 **GOOD FRIDAY**
NO SCHOOL FOR STAFF OR STUDENTS

5-9 **SPRING BREAK**
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

IREAD, ILEARN AND EOY TESTING COMING UP

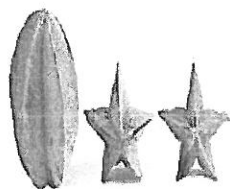
Beginning on March 8th through March 19th, third-grade students will be taking the IRead test. On April 19th through May 14th students in grades three through seven will take ILearn tests. Middle School students will also take part in EOY (End of Year) testing beginning on April 19th through May 14th.

We would ask parents and guardians make sure their students get a good eight hours of sleep, and also a good breakfast to help aid in their success with these tests.



Scooter, Bike and Pedestrian Safety

- Wear a comfortable, properly fitted helmet. Be sure that the helmet sits level on top of the head—not rocking in any direction—and always fasten the safety strap.
- Be sure that safety gear (wrist, elbow and kneepads) fits properly and does not interfere with the rider's movement, vision or hearing.
- Ride scooters and bikes only on smooth, paved surfaces and only ride during daylight hours. Learn the proper hand signals and use them when you turn or stop.
- Come to a complete stop before entering driveways, paths or sidewalks, then look left, right and left again for bikes, cars or pedestrians heading your way.
- Teach crossing safety to children by example.



STAR FRUIT

Carambola, also known as **starfruit**, is the fruit of *Averrhoa carambola*, a species of tree native to tropical Southeast Asia where it has been cultivated over centuries. It was introduced to by Austronesian traders. They remain common in those areas and in East Asia and the Pacific Islands. They are cultivated commercially in India, Southeast Asia, southern China, Taiwan, and Florida in United States.

The fruit has distinctive ridges running down its sides (usually 5–6). When cut in cross-section, it resembles a star, giving its name as *star fruit*. The entire fruit is edible, including the slightly waxy skin. The flesh is crunchy, firm, and extremely juicy. It does not contain fibers and has a texture similar in consistency to that of grapes. Carambolas are best consumed shortly after they ripen, when they are yellow with a light shade of green or just after all traces of green have disappeared. They will also have brown ridges at the edges and feel firm. Overripe carambola will be yellow with brown spots and can become blander in taste and soggy in consistency.

Ripe sweet type carambolas are sweet without being overwhelming as they rarely have more than 4% sugar content. They have a tart, sour undertone, and an oxalic acid odor. The taste is difficult to match, but it has been compared to a mix of apple, pear, grape, and citrus family fruits. Unripe star fruits are firmer and sour, and taste like green apples.

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGGIE MARCH CALENDAR

1	2	3 Clementine	4 Tomato Grape Red	5 Star Fruit
8 Cucumber Slices	9 Banana	10 Squash Coins	11 Strawberries	12 NO SCHOOL
15 Fuji Apple	16 Broccoli Florets	17 Kiwi	18 Carrot Mini Peel	19 Lemon
22 Raspberries	23 Celery Stix	24	25 Orange	26 Cauliflower Florets
29 White Grapes	30	31 Green Pepper Strips		

Elementary School Parents[®]

Timothy L. Johnson Academy

make the difference!



Give your child the time and space to think critically

Critical thinking—the ability to go beyond basic knowledge and consider “the bigger picture”—is a crucial skill for school success. The better students are able to think critically, the more deeply they will grasp new concepts and ideas.

To promote these skills:

- **Let your child figure things out.** Resist the urge to solve every problem. Instead, give her time to work through problems herself. If she’s forgotten how to do an assignment, don’t offer to email the teacher. Instead, ask, “How could you find out?” Can she call a classmate? Look over at a previous assignment for clues? Give her space to come up with a plan.
- **Discuss current events.** Is there a news story that might interest her? Print out an article and chat about it over dinner. Find out what she thinks about the issue, but don’t stop there. Once she’s shared her opinion, press her a bit. “I can see how you feel about this. But why do you think other people might feel differently?”
- **Encourage reflection.** Once your child completes a big project for school, talk about it. Ask her, “How difficult was it to finish? What did you learn about how to do projects? Regardless of how the project went, reflecting on the process will help her hone her critical-thinking skills.

Teach your child how to be conscientious



Conscientiousness is a student’s ability to set and meet goals, make informed choices, and understand his responsibility to others.

While this trait should naturally develop as your child grows, studies show there’s an easy activity that can hone it. And believe it or not, it’s schoolwork!

Here’s how to help your child strengthen conscientiousness with his assignments:

- **Remind him not to rush.** He should take his time and complete tasks carefully.
- **Ask him to check his work.** Once your child finishes an assignment, have him spend a few minutes going back over it to confirm that his answers are correct.
- **Cheer him on.** Is that art project challenging your child? Has he had enough of that book report? Encourage him to keep at it and not give up! Conscientious students meet their obligations and deadlines even when the going gets tough.

Source: R. Gollner and others, “Is doing your homework associated with becoming more conscientious?” *Journal of Research in Personality*, Elsevier Inc.

Historical fiction can bring the past alive for your child



History is fascinating. But reading about it in textbooks can often seem a bit dull and dry to students.

That's where historical fiction can help. The best historical fiction brings a past time to life. It shares the details about what people wore, what they ate and how they really lived. It gives the reader a vivid glimpse of history.

To provide the most enjoyable experience with historical fiction:

- Ask a children's librarian to suggest a book that presents history accurately and avoids myths or stereotypes.
- Look for a book with some illustrations. This is when

a picture really can be worth a thousand words.

- Try reading the book aloud if it's above your child's reading level.
- Have your child read more than one book about the same period. Talk about how people see the same event or period of history differently.

Source: E. Codell, *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading*, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Six ways chores can help your child become more responsible



It's a fact: Responsible children do better in school. And they grow up to become productive, responsible adults.

One of the most effective ways to help children develop responsibility is through family chores.

Chores help your child:

1. **Build school skills.** Learning how to follow directions and complete chores correctly gives your child practice for following directions when taking tests.
2. **Feel like she is needed.** Let's face it—this is something *everyone* needs. So be sure to recognize your child's contribution. "Elena unloaded the dishwasher this afternoon, so cleaning up after dinner tonight will be much faster!"
3. **Develop planning and time management skills.** Figuring out when to complete chores helps your child learn how to prioritize tasks and plan her time.
4. **Feel a sense of investment.** A child who has swept the floor is less likely to track in mud from outdoors.
5. **Take pride in her work.** This feeling of satisfaction can carry over to times when she faces a daunting task for school, like finishing a long-term project.
6. **Learn basic life skills.** Before your child leaves home, she should know things like how to prepare simple meals, care for her clothes and take out the garbage. The sooner she learns these lessons, the more prepared she will be for the future.

Are you setting an example of respect?



Children learn about respect from watching their parents. Are you modeling the behavior you want your child to

have—so that he will respect you, himself, his teachers and others? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

- ___ 1. Do you treat your child and others with kindness and honesty?
- ___ 2. Do you admit mistakes when you make them, apologize for them and try to fix them?
- ___ 3. Do you listen attentively to your child when he is speaking to you? If you aren't able to listen right then, do you schedule a time to talk later?
- ___ 4. Do you maintain self-control and find healthy ways to vent your anger—rather than taking your frustrations out on your child?
- ___ 5. Do you enforce household rules and the consequences for breaking them fairly and consistently?

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are *yes*, you are modeling a respectful life for your child. For *no* answers, try those suggestions.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Practical Ideas for Parents to Help Their Children. ISSN: 1046-0446

For subscription information call or write:
The Parent Institute, 1-800-756-5525,
P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474.
Fax: 1-800-216-3667.

Or visit: www.parent-institute.com.

Published monthly September through May.
Copyright © 2021, The Parent Institute,
a division of PaperClip Media, Inc., an
independent, private agency. Equal
opportunity employer.

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.
Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.
Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

Regular exercise boosts your child's health and academics



Physical fitness provides many benefits for kids. Studies show that regular physical activity is linked to higher self-esteem and attentiveness in classes. It also lowers the chance of health problems such as type 2 diabetes.

To increase your child's activity level:

- **Add movement to screen time.** Encourage your child to take breaks that involve activity when he watches TV or plays video games.
- **Plan family outings.** Pick activities your family enjoys and create some new healthy traditions. You might go for a short walk before dinner every night, or take a hike every Sunday afternoon.

- **Make suggestions.** Suggest your child play games that involve movement, such as tag, soccer and jumping rope. Indoors, try games such as Simon Says and Red Light, Green Light.
- **Be creative.** During chore time, play music or race to finish a job. While doing errands, park a few blocks away from a store and walk. Or, make a quick stop at a playground on the way home.
- **Set an example.** If your child sees you staying fit (stretching, biking, walking with a friend, etc.), he is more likely to be active himself.

Source: A. McPherson and others, "Physical activity, cognition and academic performance: an analysis of mediating and confounding relationships in primary school children," BMC Public Health, BioMed Central.

Teach your child to follow four steps to achieve any goal



Children feel good about themselves when they set goals and succeed in reaching them. Having goals also helps children overcome difficulties. When they're frustrated or upset, they can keep a "picture" in mind of what they're aiming for.

When your child sets a goal, encourage her to choose one she can reach in a short time frame. Then, help her follow four steps for making that happen:

1. **State the goal.** Make sure your child's goal is specific: "My goal is to learn my multiplication facts." She should write it down and post it where she will see it.
2. **Plan how to meet the goal.** "I will make flash cards and study them

- for 15 minutes every night. I will ask Dad to quiz me on Fridays."
3. **Talk about the goal with others.** This builds commitment. Encourage your child to tell her teacher what she plans to do.
4. **Do each step in the plan,** one at a time. If problems come up, talk about possible solutions. Perhaps she is too tired after school each night to review her flash cards. Maybe she could study them in the mornings while she eats breakfast instead.

Don't forget to praise your child for her effort each step of the way. "I am proud of you for studying your multiplication facts this morning." And when she achieves her goal, celebrate the way her hard work paid off!

Q: My daughter hates to write. When she has a writing assignment, she just stares at the blank piece of paper. Is there anything I can do to help?

Questions & Answers

A: Elementary schoolers are often reluctant writers. Many simply freeze with fear at the thought of writing. They worry that what they write won't be any good, or that they'll be made fun of.

To help your child overcome writer's block:

- **Remind her** that professional writers have difficulty writing sometimes, too.
- **Talk through ideas** with her. Encourage your child to brainstorm and make a list of as many ideas as she can.
- **Suggest she write down** her ideas just as they come. Later she can edit for flow, grammar and spelling.
- **Encourage her** to use a computer to write if possible. This makes it easier to make revisions.
- **Have her try free writing.** She should write anything that comes to mind, no matter how silly. Or, ask your child to write about something she enjoys.
- **Don't over-criticize.** If she asks you to review her writing, note what you like first. Focus on what your child is trying to say, not just the mechanics of writing.
- **Don't fix her mistakes** for her. This won't boost her self-confidence. Instead, it will send the message that you don't think your child is capable of fixing them herself.
- **Be patient.** Allow her to express her frustration. It takes time to become a good writer.

It Matters: Test Success

Test-taking strategies boost test success



While there are specific ways to approach specific kinds of tests (true-false tests, essay tests and standardized tests, for example) there are some general strategies that will help your elementary schooler do her best on any test.

Remind your child to:

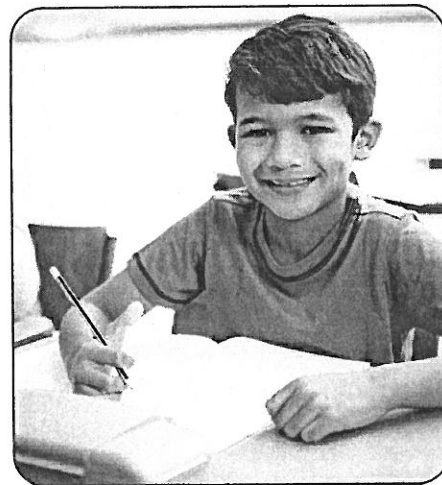
- **Read the instructions carefully.** Then she should read them again to make sure she knows exactly what she is supposed to do.
- **Look for direction words** that tell her what she is supposed to do. Direction words are words like *compare, list, describe, define* and *summarize*.
- **Read through all the questions** quickly before she starts. She should think about how much time she has and decide how much time she can spend on each question.
- **Read each question carefully** as she begins the test. She should understand exactly what the statement or question says. Then she should determine what she thinks the answer is before she reads any choices provided.
- **Skip a question** if she isn't sure of the answer. She should answer all the questions she knows first. Then she can come back to the others.
- **Allow time to go back** and check her answers. Do they make sense? Are sentences complete? Did she leave out any key words, such as *not*, that might change her intended meaning?

Show your child how to become a more confident test-taker

Test anxiety often comes from self-doubt. And it can affect test outcomes. If your child doesn't think he will succeed, he probably won't.

To build your child's confidence:

- **Remove the pressure.** Tell your child that tests simply show the teacher what he's learned so far, and what he may need help with.
- **Avoid last-minute panic.** Your child should begin to review and study days before the test.
- **Teach efficient studying.** Help your child focus on the material he hasn't yet mastered.
- **Encourage positive self-talk.** He should tell himself that he is prepared to be successful.



- **Help your child visualize success.** Have him close his eyes and picture himself knowing the answers.

A focus on fitness helps your child perform better on tests



Studies of elementary-age children have shown that the more fit they are, the better they do in school. Fit children have more brain power than their less active classmates. They tend to have greater attention and memory skills. They also tend to complete tasks faster and make fewer errors.

While physical fitness should be a year-round concern, he can do some things to boost his fitness for taking tests. Encourage him to:

- **Get a good night's sleep** before the test. Staying up all night studying increases anxiety, which interferes with clear thinking.
- **Eat for success.** A breakfast that is high in fiber and low in added

sugar can give your child just the right start to his day. A hard-boiled egg and a banana is a fast and easy breakfast option.

- **Relax.** If your child is too nervous, he'll forget what he knows. He can breathe deeply to focus his mind.
- **Wear comfortable clothes.** Pants shouldn't be so tight they keep your child distract your child or impede breathing. His brain needs oxygen.
- **Drink plenty of water.** This is another way to keep his brain alert. Don't forget to give your child a big hug on test day. This will increase his sense of well-being and energy.

Source: L. Chaddock-Heyman and others, "The Role of Aerobic Fitness in Cortical Thickness and Mathematics Achievement in Preadolescent Children," PLoS ONE.

Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



March 2021

Provide lessons in responsibility to improve academic success

Responsibility is essential for so many aspects of learning and achievement—from timeliness to effort to cooperation. Luckily, there are at least as many ways for you to bolster your child's sense of responsibility at home.

To raise a responsible student:

- **Trust your child** with meaningful tasks. School-age children are capable of handling tasks such as getting up with an alarm, tidying their rooms and study areas, caring for plants and pets, and clearing the table.
- **Enforce a few** age-appropriate rules and consequences. Explain them clearly so your child knows exactly how you want her to behave—and what will happen if she doesn't.
- **Discuss what it means** to be a responsible member of a community. Look for ways your family can help others, such as by collecting food or donations to help a local food bank meet the increased demand.
- **Teach financial responsibility.** Help your child learn about budgeting and saving as well as spending.
- **Adjust rules** and responsibilities. As your child matures, her abilities will change. Perhaps she can make new decisions or take on more grown-up chores. Talk about how great it feels to be trusted to be responsible!



Add an active dimension to reading

You may think of reading as a calm activity to be done while sitting still. But that's not the only way to read! Research suggests that kids can improve their comprehension and memory by physically acting out what they've read.

Acting out a phrase or passage can help kids connect abstract concepts—for example, *turning a blind eye*—with concrete actions. To encourage this kind of activity:

- **Do a dramatic reading.** Act out the story as you read it aloud. Take turns with your child or let him perform the whole thing.
- **Dress up** as favorite characters. Reenact exciting scenes, using new

words from the story. "The rats are following the sound of my piping. I'm luring them."

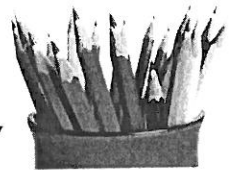
- **Put on a puppet show** based on the reading. Help your child write a short script and make puppets from old socks or paper lunch bags.

Source: M.P. Kaschak and others, "Enacted Reading Comprehension: Using Bodily Movement to Aid the Comprehension of Abstract Text Content," *PLOS ONE*, Public Library of Science.

Rely on supportive basics

It's easy to get frustrated with your child when you're trying to help with schoolwork, especially if the assignment is tough. To avoid meltdowns and misunderstandings:

- **Accept your child** for who she is.
- **Believe in her.**
- **Communicate clearly** with her.



Source: J.S. Schumm, Ph.D., *How to Help Your Child with Homework*, Free Spirit Publishing.

Turn poor results around

You know your child has the ability to do well. But he doesn't work up to his potential. What can you do? Stay positive. Then:

- **Ask your child** how he thinks he could improve his performance.
- **Consult the teacher.** Ask how much time your child should be spending on assignments and studying. Discuss strategies for supporting him.
- **Enforce a regular study time.** Set a timer for 20 minutes. After your child works hard for that time, let him take a short break, and then get back to work.
- **Let your child know** he is responsible for completing his assignments.

Make praise meaningful

The right kind of praise from you encourages your child to try and keep trying. Offer her praise that:

- **Highlights behaviors** you want her to repeat.
- **Reflects reality.** Rather than saying "That was the best oral report ever," say "You kept practicing until your delivery was really smooth!"
- **Focuses on effort,** persistence and willingness to try new things, rather than on talent or intelligence.



Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 2021



Q&A How much help should I be giving my third grader?

Q: I supervise when my child does schoolwork. But he asks so many questions! I worry that I am helping too much. Where should I draw the line?

A: Whether he's studying ancient Greece or times tables, your child is learning facts, but he's also learning *how* to learn. To help while fostering his independence:



- **Make a rule** that your child has to *try* every assignment question by himself, starting with the easiest ones first to boost his confidence.
- **Let your child ask for help** after he's tried all the questions. Keep this goal in mind: He doesn't simply need correct answers. He needs to learn how to figure out what the answers should be.
- **Offer guidance instead of solutions** whenever possible. For example, if your child asks how to spell *Mississippi*, suggest that he get out a map or dictionary.
- **Review your child's work with him.** Don't just let him hand it to you and walk away. Compliment his progress, then address trouble spots by asking questions. Can he see anything that needs to be fixed?
- **Contact his teacher** and ask about the best ways you can support your child's learning.

Parent Quiz

Are you encouraging resilience?

When resilient students hit an obstacle, they don't give up. Instead, they approach the problem in positive ways. In this challenging year for learning, are you helping your child develop resilience? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

___ 1. **Do you help** your child see her strengths and how she can apply them to challenges?

___ 2. **Do you remind** your child of ways she has handled tough situations in the past?

___ 3. **Do you provide** chances for your child to make decisions for herself? This skill takes practice.

___ 4. **Do you encourage** your child to talk through problems she is trying to solve? Listen without jumping in to solve them for her.

___ 5. **Do you talk** about strategies you use to solve problems?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are boosting your child's ability to handle setbacks. For each no, try that idea.

"All things are difficult before they are easy."
—Thomas Fuller

Instill respect for others

It's normal for your child to spot differences among people. It's also essential—in class and in society—that he be respectful of people who are different from him. To nurture respect for diversity:

- **Set an example.** Show respect for others through actions and words.
- **Learn about the challenges** and contributions of people from other backgrounds and cultures. Read books with your child about other ways of life. Talk about what you have in common.
- **Discuss stereotyping** and why it's unfair. Correct it when you hear it.

Source: M. Crouch, "Teaching Diversity to Your Kids," Parents.niswc.com/diversity2.

Use small chunks of time

You've got a big project to do—but can't make the time. Your child has a science report due, but his schedule is full. The solution in both cases is the same. Don't wait until you have enough time to finish the job. Instead, look for just five minutes. In that time, you can get a start on any job. Your child can look for a source or take a few notes. Then look for the next five!

Prepare for the next step

Will your child be moving up to middle school in the fall? To help him get ready:



- **Learn** about the school. Look at its website and social media together. Sign up to receive updates about operating plans, summer programs and other matters.
- **Emphasize** opportunities. Help your child learn about middle school classes that mesh with his interests.
- **Reinforce** effective study habits, such as organization, time management and regular review.

Helping Children Learn®

Published in English and Spanish, September through May.

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Alison McLean.

Production Manager: Sara Amon.

Translations Editor: Victoria Gaviola.

Copyright © 2021, The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.

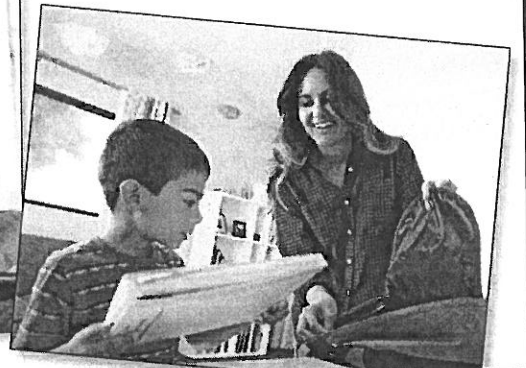
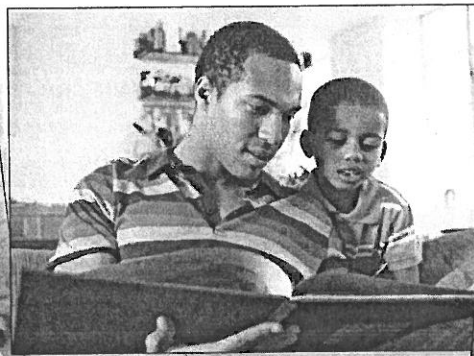
P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525 • www.parent-institute.com • ISSN 1526-9256

Daily Learning Planner

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

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2021

March 2021

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

- 1. Choose an interesting "person of the week" to learn about. Read more about this person with your child.
- 2. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then let her pick a word.
- 3. Help your child find a website that demonstrates how to make something. Let him choose a project and try to follow the directions.
- 4. Have your child read a newspaper and report on a news story at dinner tonight.
- 5. Ask your child to list things that will break if dropped.
- 6. Have your child use the telephone number pad to make words. For example, 5-6-8-3 = Love.
- 7. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing a teacher ever said or did for you?"
- 8. Help your child collect yarn and fabric scraps. Put them in a mesh bag and hang the bag on a tree. See if birds take some to build a nest.
- 9. Challenge your child to invent something to make life easier.
- 10. Stand your child against a wall. Use a spoon as a ruler and see how many spoons tall she is.
- 11. Find the positive side of a difficult situation. For example, "This power outage is boring. Let's use a flashlight to write letters on the ceiling."
- 12. Ask your child to help you prepare a healthy meal.
- 13. Fly a kite together if the weather allows, or draw a picture of one and let your child decorate it.
- 14. Keep a notebook handy when watching TV. Have your child jot down new words and look them up later.
- 15. Have your child use a sports announcer voice as he reads aloud today.
- 16. Write an encouraging note and place it on your child's pillow.
- 17. Challenge your child to reorganize your food cupboard. Discuss different categories the food could be sorted into.
- 18. Make a crossword puzzle with your child to review spelling words.
- 19. Play Go Fish with your child.
- 20. Trace your child's shoe onto paper. Have her use markers or crayons to turn the tracing into a funny picture.
- 21. Ask your child to list five words that describe him. Are you surprised by what he listed?
- 22. When your child is unsuccessful, ask, "How would you do it differently next time?"
- 23. Ask your child to list ideas for a new flavor of ice cream.
- 24. When you watch TV with your child, get moving every time a commercial comes on. Jump up and down, run in place, do sit-ups.
- 25. Challenge your child to write an advertisement for a product she uses.
- 26. Ask your child to draw something that makes him happy.
- 27. Make raisins dance. Add a few to a glass of soda water. They will rise as bubbles collect and fall after bubbles pop at the surface.
- 28. Have your child check the weather. Plan an indoor or outdoor picnic.
- 29. Encourage creativity. Ask your child unusual questions: "What would you bring to a picnic in space?"
- 30. Cut the headline off a news article. Challenge your child to read the article and write her own headline.
- 31. Have your child point to a country on a world map. Together, figure out what time it is there.

April 2021

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

- 1. Measure how far your child can jump. How many jumps does it take to go around your home?
- 2. Give your child a small plant to take care of. Post the watering schedule.
- 3. Go outside with your child and look for signs that animals have been nearby.
- 4. Using permanent marker, help your child mark off inches on a straight-sided jar. Set it outside and see how many inches of rain fall this week.
- 5. Ask your child, "How do you decide who will be your friends?"
- 6. Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help him raise them before the year ends.
- 7. Have your child watch for changes in plant life in your neighborhood. Together, keep notes in a journal.
- 8. Ask your child: "What if ice cream grew on trees?"
- 9. Have your child hold her nose while she eats. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- 10. Make up a secret code with your child. Use the code to send messages to each other.
- 11. Spend a half hour reading together today. Let your child pick the book you will read.
- 12. Help your child learn some facts about undersea life.
- 13. Discuss different kinds of transportation that your child may be unfamiliar with, such as a ferry, subway or trolley.
- 14. Talk about the best and the worst parts of family members' days. Everyone gets a turn to talk.
- 15. Watch a TV show with your child. Ask questions such as, "Why do you think that character did that?"

- 16. Does your child know your state bird? If not, help him look it up.
- 17. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing you have ever done for someone else?"
- 18. Let your child help with a household chore today. Remember to say thank you.
- 19. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
- 20. Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for school. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
- 21. Teach a card game to your child. Play it with the whole family tonight.
- 22. Experiment with photosynthesis. Block light from a plant leaf with a piece of masking tape. What happens?
- 23. Just for fun, serve a backwards dinner. Eat dessert first.
- 24. Brainstorm ways you and your child could help make your neighborhood more beautiful.
- 25. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety.
- 26. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 27. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats, shoes and old clothes.
- 28. Ask each family member to write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 29. Challenge your child to describe today's weather without using the words hot, cold, cloudy, rainy or sunny.
- 30. Look over your child's assignments. Give compliments first, and then helpful criticism.

Copyright © 2021 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525

May 2021

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

- 1. Review math facts by having your child write them on the driveway or sidewalk with chalk.
- 2. Think of an inspiring quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.
- 3. Learn about *origami*—the Japanese art of paper folding. Together, try to make some interesting shapes.
- 4. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What do you think dogs think about?"
- 5. Notice punctuation. How many different types can your child spot today?
- 6. Show your child a new shape today. If he already knows the basics, introduce a *hexagon* (six sides) or *octagon* (eight sides.)
- 7. Ask your child to design a cover for a book.
- 8. Turn off digital devices this evening. Act out stories instead.
- 9. Shop for salad ingredients and pick one unfamiliar vegetable. At home, prepare the salad with your child.
- 10. Read three poems with your child today.
- 11. Ask your child to name 10 items that can be found in a dentist's office.
- 12. Talk about a familiar nearby place with your child. Decide which direction it is from your home—north, south, east or west.
- 13. Record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 14. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 15. Set aside time today to work on a hobby with your child.
- 16. Garden with your child today. Pull weeds, spread mulch, plant flowers outside. Or pot plants indoors.

- 17. Talk about *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *lead* (the metal) and *lead* (to go before).
- 18. Give family members marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 19. Consider opening a savings account for your child. Ask the bank about special accounts for kids.
- 20. At dinner, have each family member say something nice about every person at the table.
- 21. Have your child read to you while you cook or do a chore today.
- 22. Freeze fruit juices in ice cube trays to make popsicles. Enjoy them with your child.
- 23. Visit the public library's website and look for an audiobook to download and listen to with your child.
- 24. Help your child set a goal for this week.
- 25. Even though it stays light later, stick with a bedtime that lets your child get at least nine hours of sleep each night.
- 26. Let your child see you reading. Then say, "Reading is so much fun!"
- 27. Talk about your child's summer plans today.
- 28. Look for a TV program on science or history. Watch it with your child.
- 29. Ask your child to think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
- 30. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and let her know you love her.
- 31. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after his birth.

Copyright © 2021 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525