



TLJA TIMES

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

December 2022

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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,

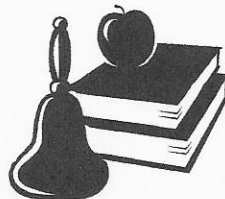
I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving break. Now that students have returned to school, we will start our middle of year assessments. It is an important time to see if your student has made the growth that they need to have from the beginning of the year. Our partnership with you is so crucial to your student's growth as well as for the school's success. Please encourage your child to complete their homework, read 20 minutes a day, get a good nights sleep, and always come to school ready to learn. We then can provide them the strong academic support that they need. This is even more crucial as we are testing. We appreciate all you do!! Thank you for your partnership with us!!
Dawn Starks, TLJA Superintendent /School Leader

School will
be closed
for the
holiday
break
starting
December
23rd
thru
January 9th.

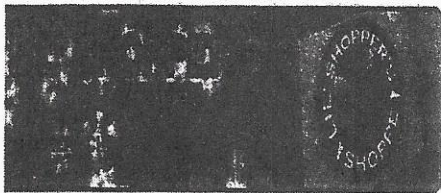
Don't forget to save box tops!!
A great way to raise funds for our school!!

Santa Claus is Visiting

Thursday, December 22nd
Santa will be here to visit classrooms
and share a special treat!!



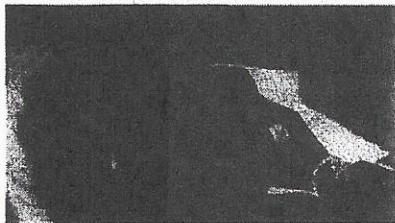
Please be sure to read with your
child at least 20 minutes every
night!!



SANTA SHOPPE COMING SOON

The Holidays are near and, as a special service for our students; we will be having our very own Santa Shop. Students will have the opportunity to pick out inexpensive gifts for family and friends. Gifts will be priced with a child's budget in mind, ranging from \$3.00 to \$10.00, with most being priced from \$3.00 to \$7.00. There will be gifts available for all members of the family. The Santa Shop will be open for students to purchase Christmas presents beginning on December 5th through December 15th. The Santa Shop, run by school staff, will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. during the day, and an adult staff member will be available to help students as they shop. Watch for a flyer and a Shopping Budget Envelope to be sent home with your student. This will allow you and your child the opportunity to decide together how much can be spent on each person.

READ TO YOUR CHILDREN



Parents, especially during this Holiday Break, are encouraged to take time to read to their children or to have their children read to them. If a child reads twenty minutes per day, their focus understanding of words is greatly enhanced.

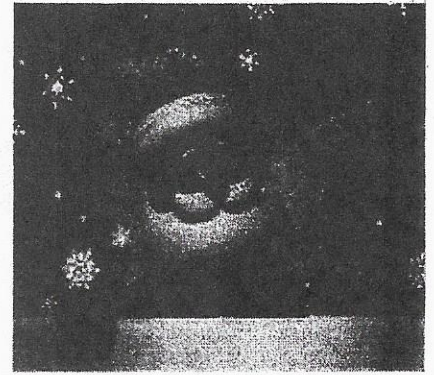
Important Dates to Remember and mark your calendar:

December

- 12/01 MS PEP RALLY
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.
7-8 gr Girls
basketball game
@Blackhawk Christian
6:30 p.m.
- 12/05 - SANTA SHOPPE OPENS
- 12/15 8:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- 12/10 Boys basketball
Tourney @ Oak Farm
Montessori @ 10:00 a.m.
- 12/13 Boys basketball game
@ home (gr 6) 5:30 p.m.
(gr 7-8) 6:30 p.m.
- 12/15 Girls basketball game
@home 5:30 p.m.
- 12/22 Visit with Santa
- 12/23 – Holiday Break
SCHOOL CLOSED

January

- 1/9 Professional Day for
Teachers –
NO SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS
- 1/10 Beginning today, school in
session; buses running on
normal schedule
- 1/12 Vision Screening for
Kdg, 1, 3, 5 students
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Day
SCHOOL CLOSED



SANTA'S ON HIS WAY

Timothy L. Johnson students are in for a real treat on Thursday morning, December 22nd. We are expecting a visit from Santa Claus. He is that jolly old fellow who dresses in red and whose tummy jiggles when he laughs his hearty, "Ho Ho Ho."

Santa will be visiting each class-rooms with a surprise for each student.

There will be no school on Friday, December 23rd for students and staff.

School will resume for staff on Monday, January 9th. School for students will begin on Tuesday, January 10th. Buses will resume morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off on their regular schedules.

FALL MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES

Fall athletes representing Timothy L. Johnson Middle School in basketball and cheerleading are:

BOYS: Enrico Bailey, Jayvion Bright, Israel Franco, Kelly Gibson, Jachaun Johnson, Ah Mee Kun, Ja'Quavion Monroe, Ah Nah, Ah Nas, Jayden Scott, Amarie Smith, Kejay Starks, Dre'den Trent and Ozme Win. The boys' basketball team is coached by Flint Cooper, head coach, and Jordan Davidhizer, assistant coach.

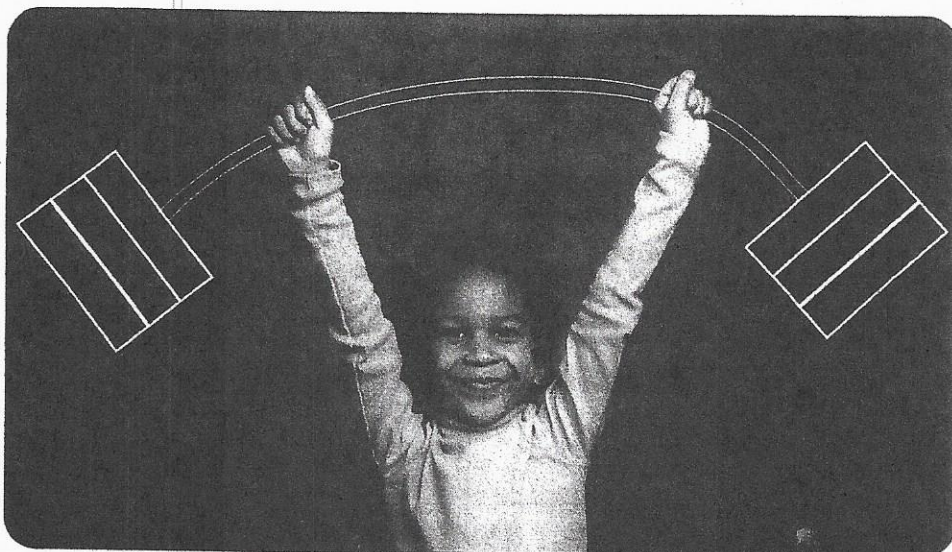
GIRLS: Saung Bee, La'Riyah Douglas, RayNiya Holley, Le'Ronayas Johnson, Antonina Jones, Hnin Pwint Phyu, Phyu Phyu, Mykail and Mykail Smith. The girls' basketball team is coached by Kaylie Davidhizer, head coach.

CHEERLEADERS: Joselyn Almazan, Makayla Benjamin, Princess Chew, Larryah Cook, Lanaijah Dance, Saniyah Hamilton, Nadia Hernandez, TwarHayDar Jalahuddin, Caley Smith and Enajiah Sullivan. Adrienne Santos is cheerleading coach.

Parents[®]

Elementary School

make the difference!



Regular exercise boosts your child's health and academics

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

To increase your child's activity level:

- **Plan family outings.** Pick activities your family enjoys and create some new healthy traditions. You might bundle up and go for a short walk after dinner or head to a park every Sunday afternoon.
- **Make suggestions.** When your child has a friend over, suggest they play games that involve movement, such as tag, soccer and jumping rope. Indoors, try games such as Simon Says and Red Light, Green Light.

- **Add movement to screen time.** Have your child take breaks that involve activity when watching TV or playing video games. For example, see how many sit-ups your child can do during commercial breaks.
- **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.** Children are more likely to be active when they see family members staying fit. Let your child see you stretching, biking, walking with a friend, etc.

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.

Strengthen your child's online research skills

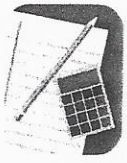


Help your child develop important research skills by demonstrating how to find interesting

information online. Here are two games the whole family can play:

- **Scavenger hunt.** Make a list of 10 questions for which there is only one correct answer. For example: *What's the temperature in Buenos Aires right now? Who was the last Olympic Gold Medal winner in women's figure skating?* Then start a timer and see how quickly your child can find the answers (without asking Siri). Encourage the use of a variety of search terms to make the search more effective. Give the same list of questions to another family member and see who gets the best time!
- **Panning for gold.** Choose a famous person or event from history. Give everyone in the family 15 minutes to search online for interesting facts about that person or event. Share what each of you has learned. Vote for whose "nugget" of information turned out to be gold.

Promote skills that will prepare your child for middle school



Long before students enter middle school, teachers start preparing them for its challenges.

You can do the same thing at home by encouraging your child to:

- **Manage time.** Demonstrate how to use short periods of time in productive ways. Your child could study flash cards on the way to basketball practice, or review math problems on the bus.
- **Get organized.** Make sure your child is using a planner to keep track of school assignments. Suggest ways to organize school papers and recommend cleaning out school bags and study spaces once a week.

- **Take notes.** Encourage your child to practice this skill while reading at home. Ask your student to identify and write down key words and information, then summarize the essential points.
- **Plan ahead.** Show your child how to make a study schedule and stick to it. Explain that several short study sessions are more effective than cramming.

“The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today.”

—Elbert Hubbard

Downtime is vital for your child’s health and academic success



Some parents schedule every minute of their children’s time in an effort to prepare them for success in later life.

But studies suggest that kids benefit from enjoying unscheduled free time.

When days are packed with lessons, sports and other structured activities, children can become overwhelmed and stressed out. As a result, they don’t do as well in school and are more likely to get sick.

To determine if your child’s schedule is balanced, ask yourself:

- **Does my child have time to play with friends?** Practices that are planned and run by adults don’t count. Kids need time to relax and just “hang out” with other children.
- **When does my child complete assignments?** Working on them

while traveling between activities isn’t effective. Schoolwork takes concentration, and that takes time.

- **Why is my child in these activities?** Sometimes, parents are the ones who want their child to take a class or participate in a sport.
- **Does my child get enough sleep?** Children between the ages of six and 12 need nine to 12 hours of sleep each day to function well. School is your child’s most important job. If too many activities are getting in the way, ask your student to make a choice: “Which two activities do you enjoy the most?” For safety, middle school students should still be supervised, but increasing unstructured free time will increase your child’s happiness and health.

Source: C. Hennig, “The Lost Art of Play: How Overscheduling Makes Children Anxious,” CBC News.

Are you building a bridge between home and school?



Studies consistently show that when families and schools form a strong team, students are more likely to succeed. They learn more and do better in school.

School has been underway for a couple of months, so it’s a good time to think about the relationship you are building with the school. Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ 1. Have you met with your child’s teacher at least once this year?
- ___ 2. Do you talk with your child about school each day and review the information the school sends home?
- ___ 3. Do you monitor schoolwork? If your child struggles with an assignment, do you ask the teacher how you can help at home?
- ___ 4. Do you make sure your child gets to school on time each day?
- ___ 5. Have you reviewed the school handbook together? Do you expect your child to follow all school rules?

How well are you doing?

If most of your answers were *yes*, you are building a strong school-family team. For each *no* answer, try that idea from the quiz.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Practical Ideas for Parents
to Help Their Children.

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Bring geography to life with fun and educational activities



Learning about geography can make the entire world more relevant to your child. To strengthen interest in geography, have your child:

- **Draw a map** of how to get from your house to school, the grocery store or a friend's house. Then follow the map together.
- **Walk outside** and identify *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*, as well as *northeast*, *northwest*, *southeast* and *southwest*. Challenge your child to describe where things in your town are located. "My school is *northeast* of my house." "The library is *south* of the fire station."
- **Go through your house** and talk about where various items came from. Look for labels to see where things were made. A calculator may have come from Taiwan.

A box of cereal may have a Battle Creek, Michigan or Chicago, Illinois address. Locate them on a map.

- **Look for street patterns.** In some towns, streets run north and south, while avenues run east and west. Or, street names may be alphabetical. Help your child recognize the patterns.
- **Start a collection** of objects from countries around the world. Stamps, postcards and coins are all easy items to collect, categorize and store.
- **Learn more about** where your ancestors came from. Find these places on a map. If possible, help your child learn about the places ancestors lived before coming to this country. Where do your relatives live now? Again, check the map.

Q: My fourth-grader earns average grades, but I know they could be higher. Several of my friends pay their children for earning good grades. Is this something I should consider doing with my child?

Questions & Answers

A: Parents want their children to do their best in school—and they are constantly looking for effective ways to motivate their kids to achieve. But there are some serious drawbacks to offering money for grades.

Paying for grades:

- **Doesn't allow children** to enjoy the satisfaction of learning. Kids don't need bribes to *want* to learn. They are natural learners. As they master new skills or memorize new facts, they gain self-esteem and self-confidence. However, when you pay your child for grades, you actually run the risk of *decreasing* your child's interest in learning.
- **Doesn't recognize effort.** Students should focus on doing their best. The goal is to keep trying and enjoy learning. If your child is trying but still struggling with the material, talk to the teacher.
- **Decreases intrinsic motivation.** Students who get paid for doing some things may expect to get paid for doing everything. Pretty soon, your child will expect a reward for every task you assign—from mowing the grass to taking out the trash to feeding the dog.

So what can you do to get your child's grades up? Help your student focus on learning and celebrate newly acquired skills. Praise your child for putting in the effort!

Routine family dinners can improve outcomes for children



What does your child really want for dinner?

You. Families have varying schedules and you may wonder whether

gathering for a family meal is worth the effort involved. In fact, research suggests that family meals can make a real difference.

Studies have found that kids who eat dinner with their families four or more nights a week are less likely to try cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana. They also perform better in school.

Here's how to make family meals work for you:

- **Include your child** in mealtime conversations. Ask a few specific questions, such as, "What's one

interesting thing that happened at school?"

- **Keep it pleasant.** Don't use mealtime as an opportunity to argue or interrogate your child.
- **Laugh.** Humor makes dinnertime fun for everyone.
- **Be flexible.** If evening meals are hard to schedule, share breakfast with your child. You'll have the same chance to connect.
- **Go low-tech.** Turn off the TV and digital devices. Keep phones and tablets away from the table.
- **Don't worry** if you can't eat together every night. Try to have dinner together a few times each week.

Source: "Benefits of Family Dinners," The Family Dinner Project.

It Matters: Discipline

Take five steps to address clownish misbehavior



It's wonderful to have a good sense of humor. But it's no laughing matter when a student constantly disrupts

class with jokes and rude body sounds.

If your child is clowning around in school, take these steps:

1. **Look for what's behind the behavior.** Sometimes children need attention or want to impress their classmates. Often, they try to use humor to cover up academic shortcomings.
2. **Work with the teacher.** Together, try to identify when the problem behavior started and what might have triggered it. Acting up after recess, for example, may mean that your child needs help settling down. The teacher might help by assigning a high-profile task like handing out worksheets.
3. **Talk about it.** Your child might not understand when it's OK to be silly and when it's not. Explain that there's a time when being funny and "clever" is actually being disrespectful.
4. **Establish clear guidelines.** With the teacher's help, explain to your child what type of behavior you both expect.
5. **Set consequences** that you and the teacher will enforce if your child breaks the rules.

By following these five steps, you and the teacher should be able to get your child's behavior back on track!

Source: K. Levine, *What To Do ... When Your Child Has Trouble at School*, Reader's Digest Books.

Positive discipline is linked to better behavior at home & school

A recent review of discipline research reaffirms that physical punishment is ineffective—and actually increases behavior problems. Effective discipline should be focused on teaching correct behavior, rather than punishment. And it's most effective when it's delivered in a positive, calm and loving way.

When disciplining, consider your:

- **Words.** Tell your child exactly what you expect. For example, "It's time to work on your assignment" is better than, "Aren't you supposed to be doing your assignment?"
- **Tone of voice.** It's important not to sound too stern or too unsure. Try to find a happy medium, a tone that says, "I'm confident you will do as I say."
- **Body language.** If possible, face your child and make eye contact. Avoid intimidating gestures such

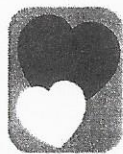


as shaking a finger or putting your hands on your hips.

- **Facial expression.** A calm look will encourage your child to cooperate. You don't need to look angry or upset.

Source: A. Heilmann, PhD and others, "Physical punishment and child outcomes: A narrative review of prospective studies," *The Lancet*, Elsevier.

Improve your child's behavior with teacher-tested strategies



Can't get your child to focus on assignments? Pay attention? Respond to requests? Why not get help from those who get

not just one child—but 20 or more children—to do what's expected?

Here's what teachers suggest:

- **Explain what you want your child to do.** Focus on the tasks you want to be routine—like putting items that go to school by the front door.
- **Post a schedule.** Your child will know what to do and when to do it—and will feel more independent.
- **Avoid abrupt transitions.** Let your child know how many minutes are left before it's time to switch gears and do something else.
- **Add excitement to ordinary tasks.** Challenge your child to clean up a mess in rhythm to music.
- **Use silent signals.** A gentle touch on the shoulder should get your child's attention. Flick the lights off and on to give a five-minute warning before bedtime.
- **Assign meaningful tasks.** Expect your child to contribute by doing chores that benefit the family.

Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



December 2022

Emphasize that your child has the ability to learn and get smarter

It's likely your child will find learning some concepts or subjects more challenging than others—most students do. Your child's response to a learning challenge will affect the outcome.

Help your child develop what researchers call a *growth mindset*. This means that students believe that even if they don't understand something now, they will be able to learn it and get smarter if they keep trying. When a concept is confusing, these kids don't say, "I'm not a science (or math, or grammar) person" and quit. Instead they say, "This is a challenge and I can do challenging things!"



To help your elementary schooler develop this outlook:

- **Be a role model.** Your example influences your child's mindset.
- **Explain that there are no limits** to how smart your child can become. The brain is like a muscle that can get stronger.
- **Encourage your child to brainstorm** more strategies to try if something isn't working. These might include rereading the instructions, looking for an explanatory video online, asking the teacher for help, etc.
- **Praise your child's effort.** "That was a challenge, but you kept trying things until you got it! And now you'll know how to do it next time."

Source: C. Cornwall, "How to Instill a 'Growth Mindset' in Kids, U.S. News.



Encourage feelings of gratitude with a writing project

Research suggests that feelings of gratitude are linked to increased happiness and school satisfaction.

Help your elementary schooler think about gratitude with a writing project. On a relaxed afternoon, give your child a sheet of paper. Ask your student to:

- **Think of things** that make life better, or that your child would not like to do without.
- **Write one thing** at the top of a sheet of paper. Your child might write: "I am grateful for my dog."

- **List reasons** for feeling grateful for it. For example, your child may enjoy having the dog for company at night. Or love being greeted by the dog's wagging tail on arriving home from school.

• **Illustrate the ideas** on the list.

Repeat this activity once a month—gratitude is not just for one day!

Source: S. Allen, Ph.D., "The Science of Gratitude," Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley.

Practice math vocabulary

Mastering math involves learning math words (*quotient, product, etc.*) as well as numbers and formulas. To build your child's math vocabulary:

- **Play Math Concentration.** Write a math term on an index card. Write its definition on another card. Repeat with several terms. Mix the cards and place them face down. Take turns turning over two cards to try and make a match.
- **Combine words and pictures.** Your child could write the word *circumference* around the edge of a circle.
- **Make connections.** Many terms share a common root. Talk about how there are 100 *cents* in a dollar, 100 years in a *century*, and 100 *centimeters* in a meter.

Give your child your time

One of the best ways to influence your child's behavior is simple: Spend time together. The more low-key moments you share, the more time you'll have to talk about your values and model positive behavior. This month, take a few minutes to:



- **Admire** a colorful display together.
- **Have** your child help you fix something.
- **Watch** people as you take a walk.

Avoid a learning freeze

The winter vacation is a break from school routines. But learning can continue anywhere, anytime. To encourage it over break:



- **Brainstorm ways** your family can help the less fortunate.
- **Have your child interview** older family members about the past.
- **Read a book together** that was made into a movie. Then watch the movie. Talk about the similarities and differences.



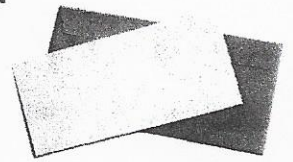
Set learning goals for 2023

What areas would your child like to improve in during the second half of the year? What can your student do to make that happen? Help your child establish some specific, realistic, measurable goals. Then, be supportive. If your child slips up, say "Falling short once doesn't mean you can't get back on track."

Offer fun ways to read

Students strengthen their reading skills when they read often. Encourage frequent reading with enjoyable reading activities. You can:

- **Follow current events.** Is there a developing news story that interests your child? Read the latest reports together.
- **Sign your child up for a pen pal.** Ask a teacher or librarian how to get involved.
- **Listen to audiobooks.** Have your child follow along in a printed book while listening.
- **Give reading coupons.** Some might be for 30 minutes of reading with you. Others might be good for a new book.



Q&A What should I do about a bad attitude toward school?

Q: My child has been complaining about school. I've heard "I hate it" more than once. I'm not sure how seriously to take this. How should I respond?

A: Sometimes, kids say they hate school when they are really looking for attention or a chance to vent or put off doing work. The feeling is temporary, and they don't actually hate school. However, since your child has said this more than once, it's important to figure out why.

Here are five steps to take:

1. **Choose a time** when you and your child are both calm to start a conversation. "You've said you hate school a couple of times. What's making you feel that way?"
2. **Listen closely** to your child's answers. Don't try to change them. Ask follow-up questions if your child can't identify the problem. Is a subject very challenging? Are kids being mean on the bus?
3. **Help your child think of possible actions to take.** For example, if math is a struggle, your child could spend more time studying it each day and write down questions to ask the teacher.
4. **Remind your child** that nearly every situation has positives and negatives. Ask what your child likes about school.
5. **Talk to your child's teacher.** Explain how your child is feeling and ask for suggestions and support. Plan to follow up to see what's working.

Parent Quiz

Are you teaching time management?

It takes time for students to develop the time management skills that support success in school and life. Elementary schoolers are the right age to start! Are you helping your child learn to use time wisely? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- ___ 1. **Do you help** your child create study schedules and adjust them as necessary?
- ___ 2. **Do you show** your child how to use a calendar to keep track of due dates and commitments?
- ___ 3. **Do you maintain** a balance in your child's schedule? Kids need time for exercise, sleep, and family time.
- ___ 4. **Do you encourage** your child to get an early start on long-term projects, and break them down into small pieces?

- ___ 5. **Do you have** your child time how long tasks take?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you are demonstrating techniques for making the most of time. For each *no*, try that idea.

"A plan is what, a schedule is when. It takes both a plan and a schedule to get things done."

—Peter Turla

Helping Children Learn[®]

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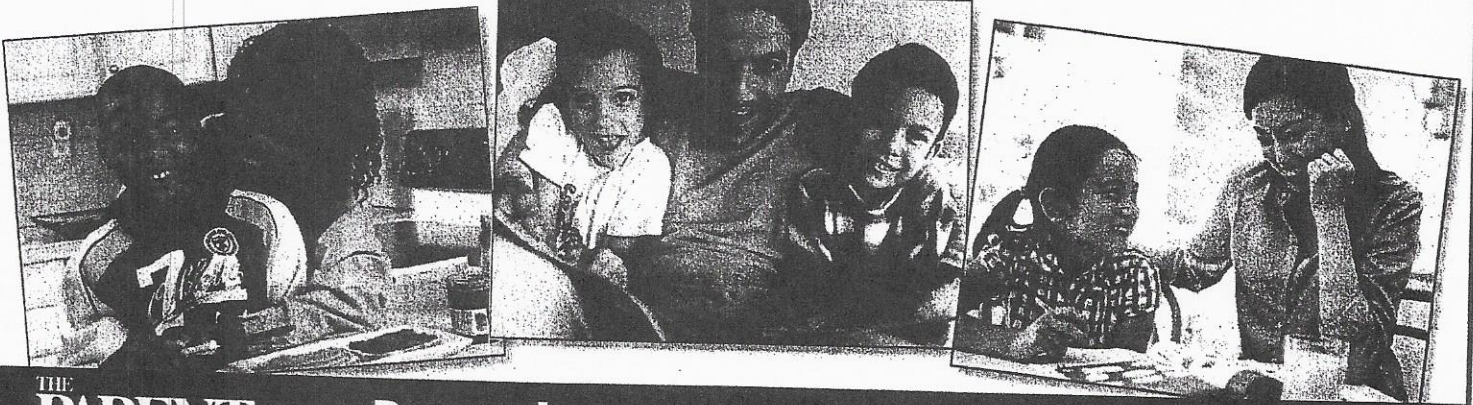
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Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
do well in school



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE

December • January • February 2022-2023

December 2022

1. Make a 31-link paper chain with your child. Tear off a link each day to count down the days until January 1.
2. Set aside time today to work on a project with your child. Choose something your student could give as a gift.
3. Make a meal together. Explain why you do some steps before others.
4. Have your child blow bubbles in freezing weather. How does the cold affect them? Look for ice forming on the bubbles.
5. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then let your child pick a word.
6. Make paper snowflakes with your child. Decorate your windows.
7. Have your child use a news source (in print or online) to check weather around the world. Where is it coldest?
8. Look for a community service project your family can do together.
9. Have your child teach you about something the class is learning. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
10. Talk to your child about holiday traditions in other cultures. Find a book about holidays to read together.
11. Give your child a flashlight to use to read in bed tonight.
12. Pick a word and challenge your child to put its letters in alphabetical order.
13. Find pictures of people in various situations. Ask your child to write captions.
14. Have your child compare the prices of two sizes of the same product at the grocery store. Which is the better buy?
15. Take a walk with your child and look at trees. Which trees are evergreen? Which ones are *deciduous* (lose their leaves in winter)?

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

16. Talk to your child about the importance of thanking people for gifts and kindnesses.
17. Set aside some time this month to do something seasonal together that you enjoyed when you were a child.
18. Watch the news on TV with your child. Choose one story and compare it with a print news article about the same event.
19. Review spelling or vocabulary words with your child tonight.
20. Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times. Then try it. Was your child's prediction close?
21. Talk with your child about the link between rights and responsibilities.
22. Have your child listen to different types of music and describe the feelings each one inspires.
23. Have your child make a list of things to do when there's nothing to do.
24. Read a story to your child and use a different voice for each character.
25. Hum a popular song and see if your child can guess its name.
26. With your child, estimate how many bowls of cereal you can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
27. Look for a show or video about history and historical figures. Watch with your child.
28. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a friend or neighbor.
29. Make a puzzle with your child. Glue a picture onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle-piece shapes.
30. Have your child write directions for making a sandwich, then follow them exactly. How does it turn out?
31. Help your child create a time line of 2022.

January 2023

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

1. Make a list with your child of activities you enjoyed together during the past year. Schedule time on the calendar to do some of them this year.
2. Talk with your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
3. Pick a letter. How many country names can your child think of that begin with that letter?
4. Have your child pretend to be Mayor. Then ask your student to list three ideas for making your community a better place.
5. Challenge your child to put away 1 + 5 - 4 + 1 things around the house.
6. Play the Opposites Game. Say a word and see if your child can tell you its opposite.
7. Have a big job to finish? Look for five free minutes and get started. Small chunks of time add up, and you'll set a great example for your child.
8. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
9. Have your child think of several words that start with the same letter, then use them all in one sentence that makes sense.
10. Look over your child's schoolwork. Talk about what your child did right before offering suggestions.
11. Help your child look up events that occurred on this day in history.
12. Have a contest: Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
13. Decide as a family on something you want to accomplish together.
14. Help your child create a family joke book. Write one or two jokes per page. Staple the pages together.
15. Teach your child about resolving conflicts. Explain how people reach compromises. Give an example.
16. Help your child learn more about the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.
17. Label four sheets of paper: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Have your child write descriptive words for each season.
18. Help your child clean out a closet. Pass on unused toys or clothes in good condition to other families.
19. Encourage your child to write a letter or an email to a friend.
20. Invent a word with your child. Write a definition as it would appear in the dictionary.
21. With your child, learn how to count to 10 in three different languages.
22. Cook breakfast with your child for the rest of the family.
23. When you're in the store, ask your child to figure how much tax you will be charged on a purchase.
24. Write an encouraging note and place it on your child's pillow.
25. Choose a poem to read aloud to your child. With your feet, stomp out the syllables as you read.
26. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family to tell how they used math.
27. Plan an indoor family "camp-out." Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores. Read scary stories.
28. Enjoy some outdoor exercise with your child today.
29. Look through your house with your child. Make a list of everything that comes from plants.
30. Show your child three small items, then put them away. Can your child name them from memory?
31. At dinner, have everyone talk about one thing they learned today.

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February 2023

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

1. Start a "chain of hearts." Cut out small hearts. Each day, write a reason you love your child on one and attach it to the chain.
2. It's Groundhog Day. How many words can your child make from the letters in GROUNDHOG?
3. Stuck inside due to bad weather? Take your shoes off and go "ice skating" in the kitchen together in your socks. Be careful!
4. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
5. How many types of punctuation can your child find in an article or short book? What does each do in a sentence?
6. If you don't have time to read to your child at night, read in the morning. It's a real "power breakfast."
7. At bedtime, take a few minutes to talk with your child about things that went well today.
8. Share family stories you can remember from when you were a child.
9. Talk with your child about the difference between courage and recklessness. It's not brave to take foolish risks.
10. Frame a special example of your child's artwork.
11. Plan a visit to an interesting museum with your child.
12. Read a nonfiction assignment with your child. Then ask your student to summarize it.
13. Pretend a circus is coming to town. Talk together about what you would see, hear and taste.
14. Discuss five positive things that make your child unique.
15. Do a crossword puzzle with your child. Or make up your own together.
16. Play a geography game. Someone names a city, state or river. The next person has to locate it on a map or globe.
17. Encourage your child to design and name a new car. What features would it have?
18. Help your child round up some friends and play a game together outside.
19. Have your child think of as many red foods as possible. See how many you can serve this week.
20. When your child has a problem, offer two possible solutions and let your child decide which one to choose.
21. Have your child make a list of all the weather words (*moisture, vortex*) in today's forecast.
22. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
23. Play a rhyming game. Take turns making up a short sentence. Answer with a sentence that rhymes.
24. Take your child outside for a "listening minute." Each of you close your eyes and try to name the sounds you hear.
25. Check out an adventure story from the library to read with your child.
26. Ask your child to use a ruler or measuring tape to measure and record the dimensions of objects in your house.
27. Have your child draw what is visible outside a window in your home.
28. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to provide experience answering questions that require reasoning.

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