

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Title I Program  
Elgin Public Schools



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August 2012

## June 2012

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

- 1. Start the summer right by setting limits on television viewing.
- 2. Help your teen set some specific learning goals for the summer.
- 3. Take a walk with your teen.
- 4. Summer is a time when teens can get into trouble. Set clear standards against drug and alcohol use.
- 5. Ask your teen, "Is there anything you would like to learn more about?" Then research the topic together.
- 6. Does your teen have a summer reading list? Post it and have your teen check off books he's read.
- 7. Help your teen understand *interest*. What would something really cost if she used a loan to buy it?
- 8. Teens still need routines during the summer. Talk with your teen about how he will spend his time.
- 9. Talk with your teen about taking an active part in the community.
- 10. Get out a board game and challenge your teen.
- 11. Challenge your teen to walk someplace instead of driving.
- 12. Introduce your teen to historical fiction. It's a great way to put a human face on a historical era.
- 13. Ask your teen to invent a new law.
- 14. Have your teen show you a favorite Internet site. Explore it together.
- 15. Have your teen read to a young child. This is a good reminder of how important—and fun—reading is.
- 16. Start a daily reading time for everyone in your family.
- 17. When your teen voices a strong opinion, encourage her to find facts to support her viewpoint.
- 18. Talk with your teen about times when you have had your trust betrayed. How did it feel?
- 19. Give your teen a hug.
- 20. Take time for a bedside chat with your teen tonight. End it by saying, "I love you."
- 21. Get up early and watch the sunrise with your teen.
- 22. Tell your teen not to talk on the phone or text while driving.
- 23. Ask your teen what he likes best about each of his friends.
- 24. Share your high school yearbook or photos from high school with your teen.
- 25. Ask your teen to imagine what life was like before TV.
- 26. Don't let math skills get rusty. Challenge your teen to rework some old math problems.
- 27. Ask your teen to tell you how to get from one place to another. Follow the directions together. Are they correct?
- 28. When your teen rebels, try to make the punishment fit the crime. Ideally, it should teach, too.
- 29. Look at magazine ads with your teen. What statements about the product are facts? Which ones are opinions?
- 30. Fourth of July is coming. Make plans now to spend that day with your teen.



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Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



# July 2012

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

- 1. Think of someone whose birthday is coming up. Shop for a gift with your teen.
- 2. Ask your teen to predict what she'll be doing in 15 years. Discuss. Why does she think that?
- 3. Talk with your child about a current event that is happening outside this country. How could it affect you?
- 4. Read the Declaration of Independence with your teen today.
- 5. Pack a lunch. Lie outside and look at the clouds with your teen.
- 6. Ask your teen for suggestions of nutritious snacks to have on hand.
- 7. Rent a funny movie to watch with your teen. Pop some popcorn.
- 8. Talk with your teen about *integrity*. What does a person with integrity do?
- 9. Choose a letter from an advice column. Read it aloud. Ask your teen how she would solve the problem.
- 10. What are your teen's special interests? Help him find books in the library about these topics.
- 11. Run through the sprinkler with your teen!
- 12. Take turns learning something new. Teach your teen a skill. Then have her teach you one.
- 13. Ask your teen to proofread a letter or report you've written.
- 14. How is the summer reading coming? Check with your teen.
- 15. Prepare an old family recipe with your teen. Tell stories about the memories it brings to mind.
- 16. Talk with your teen about how you appreciate your education—or why you wish you'd learned more.
- 17. Play a game of Scrabble® with your teen to build word skills.

- 18. Watch a travel or science show on TV with your child today.
- 19. Sit outside with your teen and two glasses of lemonade.
- 20. Teen parties can get out of hand. Develop a code that means, "Come get me now."
- 21. Suggest that your teen write a letter to someone who has had a positive influence on his life.
- 22. With your teen, go out for ice cream or enjoy a favorite flavor at home.
- 23. Talk with your teen about your family's ethnic background.
- 24. Browse in a book store with your teen.
- 25. Plan a family picnic and give each person a responsibility. Your teen might make sandwiches or plan games to play.
- 26. Suppose your teen could meet anyone from history. Who would it be? What would he say?
- 27. Go for a nature walk in the park with your teen. Identify flowers, birds, trees and insects.
- 28. Work on a project with your teen. Clean out a closet or build a bookshelf.
- 29. Take favorite books and flashlights and read under the stars together.
- 30. Take time to listen to your teen today.
- 31. Have your teen pick three places within driving distance she'd like to visit. Make plans to do so.



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HIGH SCHOOL

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# August 2012

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

- 1. Has your teen completed his summer reading?
- 2. Find quotes that will motivate your teen. Post a favorite quote on the mirror your teen uses most often.
- 3. At dinner, ask family members to tell the funniest things that happened to them today.
- 4. If your teen could go back in time, where would she go? Find library books about that period of history.
- 5. Visit a foreign food market with your teen and find a new food to try.
- 6. Ask your teen to send postcards to friends or family.
- 7. Show your teen how to use a picnic grill.
- 8. For today, talk to your teen as you would to a friend or coworker. How does your teen respond?
- 9. Ask your child to add two four-digit numbers. Can he figure it out on paper before you can with a calculator?
- 10. Some school activities begin before school starts. Ask your teen to check with the office to see.
- 11. Look up at the stars with your teen. Invent a family constellation.
- 12. Going out to eat? Ask your teen to calculate the tip.
- 13. Help your child establish a "study nook" for the new year.
- 14. Have every family member become an expert on one thing, then teach it to the rest of the family.
- 15. Ask your teen to teach you the newest dance.
- 16. Tell your teen three reasons why being with her makes you happy.
- 17. Together, make a list of ways your teen has shown responsibility recently. Let your teen know you are proud of him.



- 18. Start to get back on a school schedule. Encourage your teen to go to bed earlier.
- 19. Teach your teen an inspirational saying, such as "A goal is a dream with a deadline."
- 20. Have your teen check the ads in the Sunday paper for the best buys on back-to-school items.
- 21. Let your teen research a major purchase. Have her compare products and prices.
- 22. Have your teen find a new word in a book he's reading. Have him look up the definition.
- 23. Work on a word puzzle with your teen.
- 24. Look for ways to give your teen more responsibility: getting herself up, making her doctor's appointments, etc.
- 25. Set a TV schedule with your child.
- 26. Is your teen getting enough exercise? Take a brisk walk together today.
- 27. Share some memories with your teen.
- 28. Ask your teen to name his favorite things you did together this summer.
- 29. Suggest your teen make a time line of her life.
- 30. Discuss how a TV show does and does not reflect your family's values.
- 31. What one thing would your teen do differently from last school year?

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