

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

Fall is in the air!!



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,

It is so hard to believe it is almost Fall. Though the temperature is not always displaying it, the season change is fast approaching. With that change, brings shorter days and a new reminder that summer has past.

Fall has always been my favorite season. Not only does it mean school is back in session, but it means we are back into our familiar routines and structures. There is something comfortable and safe about Fall. I hope each of you have a perfect Fall season.

Thank you for another great start to the school year. Of course our top goal is to keep everyone safe. We appreciate your help and support. Everyone has been wonderful in supporting the new normal in returning to school after a pandemic. Thank you for all you do!! We will continue to keep the lines of communication open with you, please do the same with us. Let's make it a great Fall season at TLJA!! Dawn Starks School Leader



Days are getting cooler. Don't forget to send a morning jacket!!

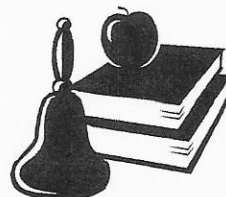
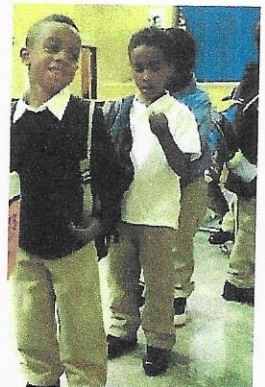
Need Transportation?- If you haven't been contacted regarding your transportation needs, please contact the school office at 441-8727. We provide transportation for all students!!

Student Dress Code for the Elementary School

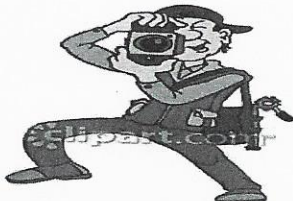
TLJA students are to be in dress code every day.

- **Shirts** must have a collar and be **light blue, navy, black or white**. Shirts must be solid color with no stripes, prints, or labels.
- **Pants, shorts, and skirts** must be **khaki, navy, or black**. Students are not to wear jeans, denim, leggings, or sweats. No sagging allowed!
- **Belts** are to be worn if necessary.
- **Sweaters and hoodies** worn inside must be light blue, navy, black, or white and have no prints or logos. Students are not to wear outdoor jackets and coats inside.
- **Shoes** should totally enclose the student's foot. No sandals or backless shoes.

Any questions regarding the dress code should be referred to the school office or your child's teacher.



All transportation changes need to be called in to the office by 2:15 p.m. Changes will take up to 3 days to process.



PICTURE DAY IS COMING

On Wednesday, October 19th, Lifetouch Photographers will be at TLJ to take student and class pictures. An order blank has been sent home with your student for you to complete if you wish to purchase pictures.

Choose the package you wish to purchase, the portrait pose from the brochure, and mark the envelope with your choices. Have your student return the envelope with the correct payment enclosed so it may be given to the photographer when your student's picture is taken. You may also order on-line by going to mylifetouch.com. There will be a make-up day later in the month for anyone if a student is absent. If you are not satisfied with your pictures, your student may have them retaken on make-up day. You would need to have your student return the package on retake day in order for his/her picture to be retaken. That date will be announced after the pictures have been received and you have a chance to look them over.

It is not necessary to wear school uniforms on picture day. Regular dress clothing will be allowed.

THIRD GRADE CLASSES VISIT SAFETY VILLAGE

On September 8th, Mrs. Brown's 3rd grade class will travel to Safety Village. Mrs. Korff's class will visit Safety Village on September 9th.

It is always a fun and informative morning for students as they learn valuable lessons from our police and firemen.

Important Dates to Remember and mark your calendar:

September

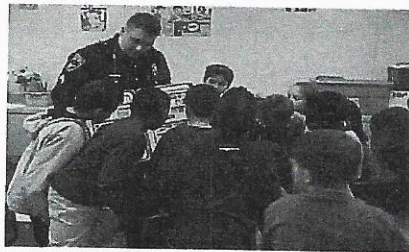
- 6 LABOR DAY/NO SCHOOL
- 8 PLANT SHOW JUDGING 1:00 P.M.
- 8/9 THIRD GRADE CLASSES VISIT SAFETY VILLAGE
- 20 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR STARTS

October

- 8 FALL BREAK/NO SCHOOL
- 19 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

REMEMBER

There will be no school Friday, October 8th due to Fall Break. School will reconvene on Monday, October 11th.

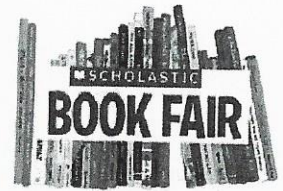


WE WELCOME BACK OUR SRO POLICE OFFICERS AGAIN THIS YEAR

Again this year we are fortunate to have our School Resource Officers returning to assist our students on a day-to-day basis in many different ways.

From being available to help students with any problem that may occur, assisting in classrooms or being available to any student who would wish to have a private discussion, their calm demeanor is always a welcome addition to our school. They are a friendly group of officers who have already been well accepted by our students and staff here at TLJA.

If you see an officer in our hallways, you will see a ready smile. Please welcome our SROs back again with us this year.



The Scholastic Book Fair will be held from September 20th through October 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Students may visit the Book Fair in the Middle School Office on Monday, September 20th to see what books are available and what they may be interested in buying. Beginning on Tuesday, September 21st, they may purchase books.

Visit school with your student and come browse the Book Fair to see what there is to offer.

THERE IS SOMETHING AT THE BOOK STORE TO INTEREST EVERY STUDENT. THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR ALL AGES.

This year, we will accept cash as well as credit cards as payment for purchases.



PLANT SHOW JUDGING COMING

It's time to bring back the plant you received in the spring for judging by the Fort Wayne Parks representatives. If your plant did not survive the summer months, you may bring in a plant or flower from home to be judged. All plants to be judged must be in and registered by 11:00 a.m.

We look forward to seeing many plants and flowers brought back to school for the Timothy L. Johnson Flower Show.

Elementary School Parents[®]

Timothy L. Johnson Academy

make the difference!



Start the new school year with a focus on attendance

Poor attendance damages academic success. Unfortunately, more than seven million students in the U.S. miss three weeks or more each school year. The pandemic increased absences as students struggled with hybrid and remote learning last year.

When students miss school or arrive in class late, *everyone* suffers. Teachers spend time collecting makeup work and reteaching. Meanwhile, other students—who are ready to learn—must wait.

Your child's most fundamental school-related responsibility is to start school on time every day—whether it is in person or online.

To support your child:

- **Stick to a schedule.** Establish evening and morning habits that

help your child be prepared. Select outfits and gather materials needed for school at night.

- **Schedule carefully.** Make medical and other appointments during non-school hours when possible. School should be a priority when planning family trips, too. If your child must be absent, work with the teacher to help your child complete makeup work.
- **Seek help when needed.** Many factors contribute to missing school. If your family struggles with health, transportation, work, child care or other issues, talk with school staff. Our shared goal is to help children do their best in school.

Source: P.W. Jordan and R. Miller, *Who's In: Chronic Absenteeism under the Every Student Succeeds Act*, FutureEd.

All parents can be involved in education



If English is not your first language, you may hesitate to get involved at school. But don't let

that stop you! There are many ways to be involved in your child's education—no matter what language you speak. Here are just a few:

- **Attend conferences** and other events for families. Don't be afraid to request translated documents. Or, ask a friend who speaks your language and English to help you interpret what's being said.
- **Ask the teacher** what you can do to help. The most important things you can do to support your child can be done in every language: Ask your child about school. Schedule a regular homework time. Encourage your child to read every day.
- **Connect with other parents.** Form a group to share ideas and opportunities for better communication. Discuss ways you can partner with the school to help school staff meet the needs of all students and their families.

Help your child build social awareness, appreciate diversity



Social awareness allows kids to feel compassion for others—even when their background and culture may be different. It's

important for kids to see all people as equal and to accept and recognize the strengths of people of all races, ethnic groups, religions and abilities.

To guide your child:

- **Remember** that you teach by example. Have you formed opinions about people based on their color, religion or culture? If so, your child may, too.
- **Talk about** your family background. Unless you are a Native American, someone in your family came here from another country. Remind your child that at some point, everyone has struggled to fit in.

- **Let your child know** it's never OK to judge, insult or treat someone badly because of their appearance or background.
- **Talk about** prejudice and stereotypes. Help your children recognize these behaviors when they see them.
- **Explain** that rules and laws have not always treated everyone fairly, and that we are trying to change that.
- **Welcome** people of many backgrounds into your family's life. Encourage your child to do the same.

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength."

—Maya Angelou

When parents talk less, their children actually listen more!



When your child was younger, he needed to hear you talk a lot. It's how he learned the language that describes the world around him.

Now that your child is older, he needs a lot less repetitive narration. Yet many parents of elementary schoolers find themselves talking on and on—even while their children are listening less and less.

Of course you still want to talk with your child about his day. You want to have conversations about what he did in school and what he's thinking about. But if you're like most parents, you'd like to spend less time talking about whether it's time to feed the pets or why his clothes are still scattered all over his bedroom floor.

Experts have identified three strategies to help parents effectively communicate with children:

1. **Make infrequent requests.** As much as possible, help your child develop regular routines for things like homework and household chores. Routines reduce the need for nagging.
2. **Keep the volume down.** Your child doesn't hear you any more clearly if you yell. As a matter of fact, he will probably just tune you out.
3. **Keep it short.** When you do have to give your child directions, limit the number of words you use. So instead of saying, "Jack, I need you to get to the car. Don't forget your backpack. Do you have your homework?" try saying, "Homework and backpack in the car, please."

Are you teaching your child how to be resilient?



All children face obstacles.

Encouraging resilience helps kids overcome them. Resilient students deal with challenges in

positive ways—at home and in school.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if you are helping your child develop resilience:

- ___ 1. **Do you give** your child plenty of opportunities to make decisions? It's a skill that improves with practice.
- ___ 2. **Do you listen** to your child when he is trying to make a decision without solving the problem for him?
- ___ 3. **Do you talk** to your child about how you find a solution when you are faced with a problem?
- ___ 4. **Do you discuss** your child's strengths and encourage him to draw on those strengths when he's facing challenges?
- ___ 5. **Do you remind** your child how he has successfully handled tough situations in the past?

How well are you doing?

Mostly *yes* answers mean you are helping your child become more resilient. For *no* answers, try those ideas from the quiz.

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.

Family meetings promote communication and closeness

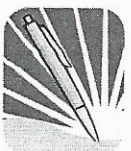


The pandemic altered the day-to-day life of families all over the world. Social distancing, disruptions to school and work routines and an overall sense of uncertainty all add stress to family life. Fortunately, family meetings are an effective way for family members to counteract stress by connecting, addressing concerns and having some fun.

For successful family meetings:

- **Meet regularly** at a convenient time. For instance, Tuesdays after dinner, over dessert.
- **Keep meetings short**—about 30 minutes or less. (But if the family is having fun, don't stop!)
- **Have parents lead meetings.** You should make sure rules are followed and have the final say on big decisions.
- **Designate someone to take notes** at each meeting. This will help everyone remember what was discussed or decided.
- **Discuss family news, concerns, goals and successes.** Reward accomplishments.
- **Give everyone** a chance to speak. No one interrupts anyone else. Each person's opinion deserves respect.
- **Don't use meetings** as a time to criticize. Discipline problems should be handled separately.
- **Include a fun activity.** Play a short game, sing a song or learn a tongue twister.
- **Brainstorm** ways to improve your meetings. Ask family members how they think the meeting went and see if they have any suggestions for improvement.

Boost your child's vocabulary with these five strategies



Reading at home is one of the best ways to boost your child's vocabulary. That's because reading exposes your child to new ideas, concepts and words.

Here are five effective strategies that will help you increase your child's vocabulary:

1. **Read different kinds** of books to your child. If you usually read fiction, go to the library and get a book that explains how something works instead. Check out a book about a sport or activity your child enjoys. Or, read a biography about a person she admires.
2. **Look for words** your child might not know as you read. "It says here that George Washington went to school to become a *surveyor*. What do you think that word means?"
3. **Listen for new words** as you're watching TV. News programs often include words your child may not know. "Have you ever heard the word *tsunami* before? Let's look it up to see what it means."
4. **Consult a thesaurus.** Find synonyms for words your child uses often when writing or speaking.
5. **Help your child create** her own dictionary. All you need is a notebook with a page for each letter. When your child discovers a new word that she wants to remember, have her write it and its definition in the notebook. Review those words from time to time.

Q: My daughter spends hours playing online games. From the minute she wakes up until she falls asleep, she wants to be playing one of her games. She is rushing through her school assignments and I'm worried her grades will suffer. How can I get her to start living in the real world again?

Questions & Answers

A: Used responsibly, online games can be a fun way for kids to relax. Some games promote physical activity, some encourage play with others and some even build important academic skills.

However, studies show that children are spending more and more recreational time in front of screens. And that amount has increased drastically in the last 18 months due to the pandemic.

Video game designers know how to create games that keep players hooked. But you must not let online games interfere with your child's responsibilities, her grades or the amount of time she spends with friends and family.

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages parents to set recreational screen time limits—and the start of a new school year is the perfect time to do it. Here's how:

- **Talk with your child** and let her know that you will be setting limits on the amount of time she spends online.
- **Establish times** when online games are never allowed, such as during schoolwork time, meal time and family time.
- **Provide alternatives.** Plan daily family activities, such as reading aloud, taking a walk or playing a board game. All these will replace some of the screen game time with more productive activities.

Doing chores develops your child's skills



There are significant benefits for children who do chores—and those benefits carry over into school.

Chores help children:

- **Become “stakeholders.”** When your child does some of the tasks that keep the household running, he makes an investment in your home. A child who swept out the front hall is less likely to walk through it in muddy soccer cleats.
- **Develop skills.** Each time you give your child a new chore, he learns how to do the job and also learns skills he'll use throughout his life.
- **Understand** that the world doesn't revolve around them. We all know people who expect others to clean up the messes they make. Your child won't grow up to become one of those people.
- **Learn to work well with others.** If you have more than one child, ask them to do a chore together. Or, encourage them to create a weekly chore chart and alternate responsibilities.
- **Develop self-discipline.** There will be lots of things throughout your child's life that he'll need to do, even though he won't want to.
- **Develop a sense of pride.** If your child is responsible for doing his laundry, having a stack of clean shirts is an accomplishment. He can take pride in what he has accomplished.
- **See that they are an important part of the family.** Your child will know he is helping to keep your home running smoothly.

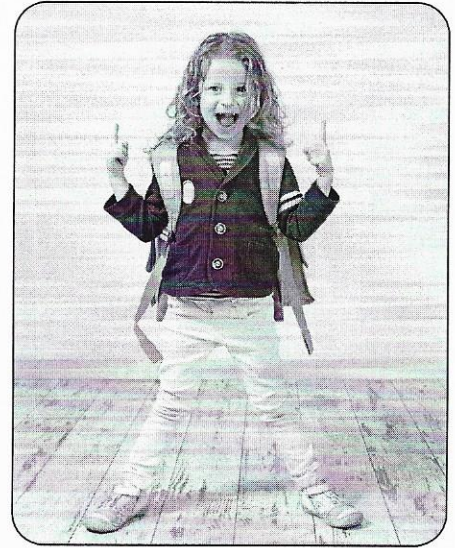
It Matters:

Four tips to help your child take responsibility for learning

While your child is a student, learning is her job. To do it well, she has to be an active learner—one who takes action instead of just listening.

Encourage your child to:

1. **Be prepared.** It's not enough just to show up to class. It's also important to get a good night's sleep, eat a nutritious breakfast and complete assignments.
2. **Participate in discussions.** Your child should ask questions, offer opinions and exchange ideas with others in her class.
3. **Stay organized.** Help your child create a system for organizing assignments and other materials. Have her collect a few classmates' phone numbers. If she misses a class, she can call to find out what she's missed.



4. **Be persistent.** Support your child as she tackles assignments and studies for tests. Show confidence in her ability. Let her know that her efforts will pay off!

Respect is essential for a positive learning environment



When students have respect for teachers and classmates, they help create the positive academic environment all kids need in order to be successful.

To promote respectful behavior:

- **Discuss respect.** What is it? Why is it important? How does it feel to be treated with respect or disrespect?
- **Be a role model.** Do what you want your child to do. If you want her to say *please* when asking for something, remember to say *please*

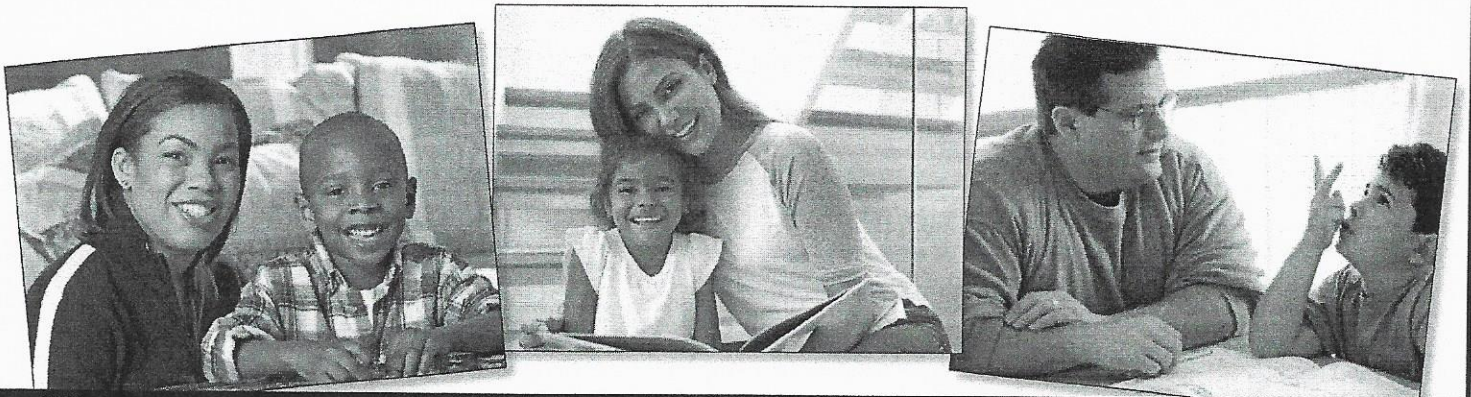
yourself. If you want her to knock before entering your bedroom, do the same for her.

- **Criticize constructively.** When you need to correct your child, do it privately and respectfully. “Next time, please hold the door for Grandpa. That will make it easier for him to get through the door.”
- **Notice times** when your child is respectful. “You listened to the coach even when other players were joking around. I was impressed.”

Daily Learning Planner

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

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2021

September 2021

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

- 1. Talk with your child about things she is looking forward to about school this year.
- 2. Breakfast helps students learn. Make sure your child starts his day with breakfast, at home or at school.
- 3. Choose a place for things that your child needs for school the next day. Help her get in the habit of putting her things there.
- 4. Have a "goodbye to summer" picnic today. Talk with your child about some fun things your family can do together this fall.
- 5. Make sure you and your child know the school rules. Discuss one today.
- 6. Have each family member set a personal weekly goal and write it down.
- 7. Name types of punctuation with your child. Look for examples of each.
- 8. Write a note saying something nice about your child. Tuck it where he will find it later.
- 9. Use time in the car to review things your child is learning, such as spelling words.
- 10. Reinforce manners today. Talk about the importance of saying *please* and *thank you*.
- 11. Measure how far your child can jump. How many jumps does it take to go around your house? Down the block?
- 12. Paint to music with your child. Play different types of songs for each painting. Discuss how the music affects the art.
- 13. Have a Family Reading Night. Pop some popcorn and have everyone curl up with a good book.
- 14. Help your child find her best time to do assignments. Some kids are more focused right after the school day ends, others are at night.
- 15. Ask your child to name his favorite book. Why does he like it?
- 16. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.
- 17. Show your child 10 objects. Have her close her eyes while you remove one. When she opens her eyes, can she guess what's missing?
- 18. Write your child's name vertically. Have him use each letter in his name to begin a line of a poem about himself.
- 19. Tonight, talk with your child about the week ahead. Plan to do this every Sunday night.
- 20. Ask your child to tell you something she learned today. Then tell her something *you* learned today.
- 21. Exercise as a family. Choose an activity everyone will enjoy.
- 22. Watch the news with your child. Locate one place mentioned on a world map.
- 23. Make up a secret code with your child. Send messages to each other.
- 24. Watch a funny TV show together. Then have your child draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 25. Tell your child about books you loved when you were his age.
- 26. Talk about *honesty* and why it is so important. Point out examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- 27. See how many ocean creatures you and your child can think of.
- 28. Post a Word of the Day. Challenge family members to use it in a sentence.
- 29. Help your child look for maps in the newspaper. How many can she find? What kinds of information do they give?
- 30. Look over your child's completed assignments. Give compliments first, then helpful suggestions.

October 2021

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

- 1. Choose an object, such as a paper clip. Ask your child to figure out different ways to use it. This promotes creativity and problem-solving.
- 2. Turn chores into a game. Assign each chore a number and have your child roll a die to see which one he gets.
- 3. With your child, time different activities you and she do in a day.
- 4. When your child is unsuccessful, ask, "How would you do it differently next time?"
- 5. If your child mentions a bully, listen. Tell the school if there is a problem.
- 6. Read your child's reading assignment together. Then ask your child to tell you about it in his own words.
- 7. Let your child see you keep your temper when you are angry. Instead of yelling, calmly talk about how you feel.
- 8. Today is the 150th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Develop a family plan in case of a fire in your home.
- 9. Bake cupcakes with your child. Use colors of icing to demonstrate fractions of the cakes—halves, fourths or thirds.
- 10. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 11. Teach your child ways to handle stress—exercising, getting enough sleep, talking about problems.
- 12. Pick a category. Ask your child to pick a letter. How many items from the category begin with that letter?
- 13. Look through a newspaper with your child. What headlines interest her? Read an article together and discuss it.
- 14. If you haven't had a conference with your child's teacher yet, plan to do so.
- 15. Give your child a calendar. Help him use it to keep track of assignments, tests and school activities.
- 16. Think about the rules you have for your child. Are they age-appropriate?
- 17. Let your child plan dinner. How many food groups can she include?
- 18. With your child, learn to count to 10 in two foreign languages.
- 19. Share family history with your child. Look at photos and tell stories.
- 20. Help your child calculate the average age of your family members. Add up ages and then divide by number of people.
- 21. Ask your child about the best present he ever got. What made it special?
- 22. Create a joke book. You and your child can add jokes you read or hear.
- 23. Start a project with your child, such as building a model or a dollhouse. Make plans to work on it together regularly.
- 24. Help your child go online to research events that occurred on the day she was born.
- 25. Encourage your child to start a collection. Collecting can boost sorting and research skills.
- 26. Tell your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 27. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 28. Ask your child to read to you as you're cleaning up after a meal. Or read to your child as he cleans up!
- 29. Have everyone write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read the lists out loud at dinner.
- 30. Find pictures of people. Ask your child to write funny captions about what they are thinking or doing.
- 31. Talk about careers with your child. What would she like to do?

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

November 2021

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

- 1. Watch a TV show or video with your child. Ask questions such as "Why do you think that character did that?"
- 2. Ask your child what he would do if he were invisible for a day.
- 3. Let your child quiz *you* about things she is learning in school.
- 4. Have your child pick a word. Together, put its letters in alphabetical order.
- 5. Make up a story with your child.
- 6. Do a crossword puzzle together. It's a great way to learn new words.
- 7. Hold a family meeting. Make some goals as a family.
- 8. Have your child replace adjectives on a printed ad with their opposites.
- 9. Squash is a Native American vegetable. When you're in the supermarket, choose a new squash to try.
- 10. Ask your child to pretend he's the town mayor for a day. Have him list three ideas to make your community stronger.
- 11. Exchange notes with your child instead of talking. (It's great when things get noisy!)
- 12. When you buy something, ask your child to figure how much tax you will be charged.
- 13. Make an "I am special" scrapbook with your child.
- 14. Plan a family talent show. Have everyone practice their acts this week.
- 15. With your child, make awards (enough for all) for your talent show.
- 16. Think of a meaningful quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.
- 17. Hum a song and see if your child can guess its name.
- 18. Make a jigsaw puzzle with your child. Glue a picture from a catalog or magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- 19. Talk with your child about a choice one of you needs to make. Discuss all the options and possible consequences.
- 20. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher this month.
- 21. See how many ways your child can write a number. For example, 4 can be written 1+3, 2+2 or 6-2.
- 22. Draw a picture of a word. See if your child can guess the word. Then let your child pick a word to draw.
- 23. Be creative in the kitchen. See who can invent the greatest tasting new pizza topping.
- 24. Ask your child to guess how many times she blinks in a minute. Then check!
- 25. Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.
- 26. Have your child write directions for making his favorite sandwich. Then follow them together.
- 27. Help your child write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper about an issue affecting children.
- 28. At bedtime tonight, tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
- 29. Keep track of everything your family eats for a day. What changes could you make to eat more healthfully?
- 30. It's the birthday of American author Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). Read one of his stories with your child.

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