

December Family Event

Thursday, December

16th

at 9:00 a.m.

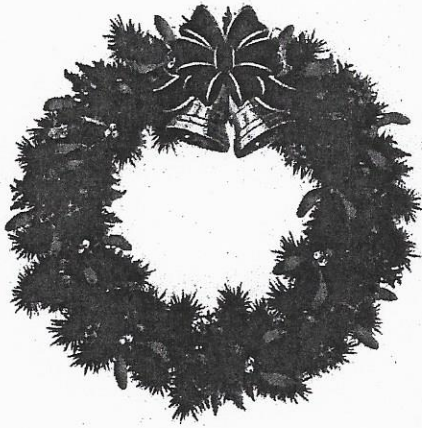
Come to the school and

have

hot chocolate with

Santa.

See you then!!



**THE SANTA SHOP IS OPEN**

12/6 to 12/16

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Santa Shop will be open for students to purchase presents for their family and friends beginning on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Gifts are priced from \$3.00 to \$12.00 and there are gifts available for ALL members of the family: Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Aunts, Uncles, Friends and Pets.

Please send the money in an enclosed envelope and indicate the amount to be spent on each person. A TLJ assistant will be available to help your students shop.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

- 12/10 1<sup>ST</sup> Super Shot Vaccine
- 12/17 Teacher PD Day  
NO SCHOOL
- 12/18-31 Holiday Break  
NO SCHOOL  
OFFICE CLOSED
- JANUARY**
- 1/3/22 School and Bus Schedules Resume at Regular Times
- 1/12 2hr Delay (Teacher Inservice)
- 1/14 2<sup>nd</sup> Super Shot Vaccine
- 1/18 Martin Luther King  
NO SCHOOL

**COVID VACCINE AVAILABLE**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 a.m., Super Shot nurses will be at Timothy L. Johnson to offer the 1<sup>st</sup> Covid vaccine to any student 5 years old and older. There will also be an opportunity for any adult wishing to also receive the Covid vaccine. There will be no cost for receiving the vaccine. However, a request form must be completed to get the vaccine.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Super Shot nurses will return to TLJA to administer the second vaccine shot. Another Consent Form must be completed to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine.

If you have not turned in a Consent Form for your student and still wish him/her to receive the vaccine, there will be a few extra available, but a form must be completed and turned in before the student or parent may have the vaccine administered.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact to school office at 543-4077.

**TO OUR TIMOTHY L. JOHNSON FAMILIES**

The staff of Timothy L. Johnson Academies wishes a restful and happy holiday season for all of our TLJA families. Please stay safe and healthy, and enjoy this time with your families.

We look forward to our students returning to school on January 3<sup>rd</sup> ready to go forward into the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

**DECEMBER FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SNACK**

		1	2	3 Banana
6 Mango Chunks	7	8 Mini Pepper Strips	9	10 Clementine
13 Squash Coins	14 Choice Orange	15	16 Apple	17 NO SCHOOL
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31



**WARM CLOTHING NEEDED?**

If your child needs warm clothing for proper protection and none is available to you, please call the school at 441-8727 for assistance. We want to ensure our TLJA students have the warm clothing

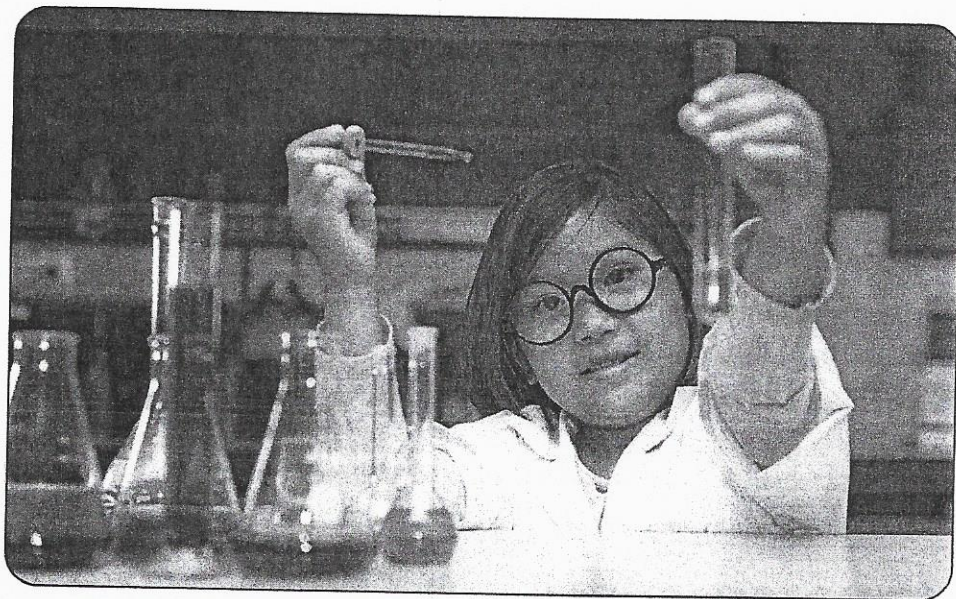


# Elementary School Parents<sup>®</sup>

December 2021  
Vol. 33, No. 4

Timothy L. Johnson Academy

*make the difference!*



## Parents can instill a positive attitude about math & science

Take a look at any list of high-paying jobs and you are likely to see that most have one thing in common: They require a knowledge of math and science. So why don't more students—especially girls—prepare for careers by studying math and science?

Researchers took a look at how parents influence their kid's views on math and science. The study found that, in general, parents are more likely to encourage boys to take an interest in math and science. And this tends to start as early as preschool, when students' attitudes toward math and science begin to form. As a result, girls tend to lose interest in these subjects by high school.

So what can parents do to make sure their sons *and* daughters stay

interested in math and science?

Here are some suggestions:

- **Have some fun with the subjects.** Conduct simple science experiments in the kitchen. See who can add the numbers on a nearby license plate fastest.
- **Find role models.** Look for shows or news stories featuring diverse people who are doctors, engineers and scientists.
- **Help your child see herself as** someone who is good in math and science. Teach her that brains, like muscles, get stronger with practice. Remind her that "smart is something you *get*, not something you *are*."

Source: S. Zielinski, "Adults can sabotage a student's path in science or math," *Science News for Students*, Society for Science and the Public.

## Encourage your child to give thoughtful gifts



Many people exchange gifts over the winter holiday season. While children love receiving gifts, they also enjoy giving them.

Does your child know that the most meaningful gifts don't have to cost money? They simply take time and come straight from the heart. Your child could:

- **Record himself** reading a book for a younger sibling to listen to while reading.
- **Frame a list**, such as "My 10 Best Memories With Grandpa."
- **Play a favorite game** with a family member or a neighbor who is homebound.
- **Record an audio** or video message for a loved one who lives far away.
- **Create a music playlist** with his favorite songs to share.
- **Bake cookies** and deliver them to someone who may not receive many homemade gifts.
- **Create a calendar** for 2021 and decorate it with personalized artwork.
- **Make a gift certificate** good for two hours of household help.
- **Create a beautiful picture** or poem about a special person.



# Midyear is the perfect time to review your child's attendance



The halfway point of the school year is approaching. It's time for a mid-year checkup on your child's attendance.

It's no surprise that student absences have increased since the pandemic. However, when students miss too much school they are at risk academically. Here's what researchers have found:

- **School absences add up.** When students aren't in class, they miss out on valuable learning.
- **Missing school becomes a habit.** Students who miss a lot of school in kindergarten are still frequently absent in fifth grade.
- **There is a clear relationship** between early attendance and later achievement. Kids who attend

classes regularly in the early grades are still doing well in secondary school—and they are more likely to graduate from high school.

How many days of school has your child missed this year? If you're unsure, contact the school to find out. It's not too late to get back on track so he can have a successful school year—and school career.

Source: "Attendance Awareness Campaign 2021," Attendance Works.

**"Students are at academic risk if they miss 10 percent or more of the school year, or about 18 days a year."**

—Attendance Works

# Keep your elementary schooler motivated with these strategies



You don't just want your child to learn. You want your child to *want* to learn! Motivation is part

of being a successful student.

Here are strategies that can motivate your child to do his best:

- **Stay engaged.** When parents are involved in education, kids do better in school. Talk about school, monitor study time and communicate with the teacher regularly.
- **Have a positive attitude.** Let your child know you believe he can succeed in school. And if he struggles, work with the teacher to find solutions.
- **Promote independence.** Give your child age-appropriate freedoms. Let him choose between two places to study, or whether to do homework before or after dinner, for example.
- **Correct mistakes** in a positive way. Don't say, "You seem to struggle with spelling." Try, "You spelled everything right except these two words! I bet you can learn them with practice."
- **Give specific compliments.** Don't say, "I like your handwriting." It's better to say, "Your report is written so neatly. I can tell that you really took your time."
- **Add more to learning.** Let school lessons spark *your* imagination. Visit educational websites with your child. Take a trip to the state capital, plant a window garden or calculate distances between points on map together.

# Are you teaching and practicing listening skills?



The most important part of communication isn't talking—it's *listening*.

And listening skills are crucial for your child's success in school.

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if you are showing your child how to become a good listener:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you try to give your child your undivided attention** when she's talking? If you're busy, say, "I'd love to talk about this after I cook dinner."
- \_\_\_ **2. Are you patient** when you listen? Sometimes, it may take a while for your child to actually say what she wants to say.
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you avoid interrupting** your child when she is talking and ask her not to interrupt you?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you "listen"** to your child's behavior? A child who is acting up is communicating a need.
- \_\_\_ **5. Do you avoid chiming in** with the "right" answer? Instead, listen as she thinks through what to do.

**How well are you doing?**

Mostly *yes* answers mean you're teaching your child how to listen. For each *no* answer, try that idea.

Elementary School  
**Parents**  
make the difference!

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

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# A five-step process can help your child make better decisions



Want your child to make more responsible decisions? Encourage her to rely on this five-step process whenever she's faced with a dilemma:

- 1. Assess the situation.** Your child can't make a wise decision if the issue at hand seems murky. So remind her to clearly define it by asking herself, "What's the main thing I'm concerned about?"
- 2. Explore her options.** What are some ways your child could handle the problem? Have her make a mental list, then narrow it down to the three most sensible choices. This list-making step is critical because it illustrates that there are usually several options for solving a problem.
- 3. Consider the disadvantages.** Have your child think about the cons of each of her top three ideas. If a certain option has a particularly negative consequence, this is a good time to rule out that option.
- 4. Consider the advantages.** Now ask your child to figure out the pros of her top choices. Does one option have major advantages over others? Then that may be the winner.
- 5. Decide on a solution.** Now that she's weighed the pros and cons of each possible option, your child can make her decision with confidence.

**Q:** My fifth-grade son is doing well in school, but he is driving me crazy at home. He zones out when I'm speaking to him and seems to take great pleasure in annoying me. Why is he trying so hard to upset me?

## Questions & Answers

**A:** It's great that your child is doing well in school. But home environment plays a big role in academic success, so it's important to deal with his frustrating behavior in positive ways.

As difficult as it might be to believe, there's a good chance your child isn't trying to upset you. In fact, it's possible his behavior isn't about you at all.

Some psychologists believe there are two kinds of parents:

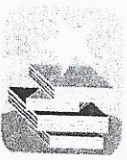
- 1. Positive thinkers.** These parents feel their children are basically good. When their kids "zone out," they chalk it up to distraction, not misbehavior. Positive thinkers are also likely to be calm when faced with annoying behavior.
- 2. Negative thinkers.** These parents see their children's frustrating behavior as disrespectful. Worse, they believe it's targeted at them, so they're likely to react angrily.

Which kind of parent are you?

If you see *every* instance of annoying behavior as a direct insult, you're likely to be angry and to assume your child is trying to upset you.

Instead, try not to take your child's behavior so personally. Acknowledge that many unwanted behaviors are normal for kids this age. Remain calm, share a laugh and ignore those eye rolls and bored looks.

# Boost reading comprehension and writing skills with summaries



Elementary school assignments often involve reading something—a passage on a worksheet or a few pages in a library

book. One way to make sure your child understands what she has read is to have her write a summary.

One night, after your child has finished her reading, tell her you'd like to find out what it was about and what she learned. Ask her to write down the most important points in her own words.

Your child may need to go back and read the material again. When she knows she has to write about it, she'll read more carefully. She'll think more as she reads.

After your child writes her summary, give her this set of questions to help her write more complete summaries in the future:

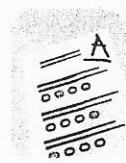
- **Who** are the characters or people involved? Suggest that she write about each person and what's important about each one.
- **What** did the characters do? Your child should write down the plot in her own words.
- **Where** did the story take place? Have your child describe the setting in some detail.
- **When** did the events take place? Your child should give the time span of the action.
- **Why** did things occur as they did? Have her explain why the characters behaved the way they did.

Once your child gets the hang of writing summaries after reading school material, she will soon reap the benefits. Not only will she have a much better understanding of what she reads, she will improve her writing skills as well!



# It Matters: Homework & Study Skills

## Preparation is key to your child's test success



Your child's teacher announces there will be a test next week. "Please start preparing now," she tells students.

What steps should your child follow?

To help your student do her best:

- **Clarify what will be tested.** Have your child check with the teacher to find out what the test will cover. She should also ask what kind of test it will be (fill in the blanks, multiple choice, etc.).
- **Make a plan.** Studying works best when it's done repeatedly over time—not at the last minute. Help your child schedule several study sessions and write them on the calendar.
- **Think of ways to reinforce the material.** Your child could make flash cards or take a practice test. You could quiz each other on the material.
- **Encourage good habits.** In addition to completing assignments and studying, your child needs rest and good nutrition to do her best in school. A regular bedtime and healthy meals go a long way!
- **Make attendance a priority.** It's hard for students to keep up when they miss school or arrive late. Reduce stress on test day by making sure your child begins class on time.
- **Ease anxiety.** Make plenty of positive comments. "You are prepared for this test. You're going to do great on it!" There's no need to pressure your child. Support and preparation are all she needs!

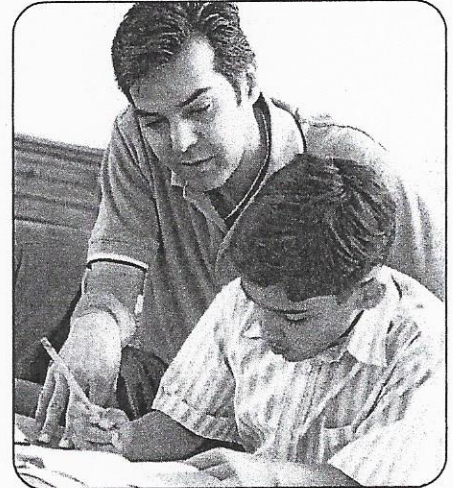
## Stay involved and review your child's assignments every day

**H**omework is a vital link between home and school. In addition to helping students master concepts, assignments give parents a sneak peek into what their children are learning.

Experts say that reviewing your child's work is important no matter what grade he is in—even if you don't understand it. Your daily interest sends the message that learning is important.

Set aside time each day to:

- **Look at your child's assignments.** Even if you're not at home when your child does his schoolwork, always ask to see it. Check that it is complete.
- **Ask your child to tell you about his assignments.** What was his



favorite one to complete? Was it easy or was it challenging?

- **Praise your child's effort.** Compliment work that is neat and accurate.

## Five ways to make the most of your child's report card



Report card time can make parents almost as nervous as students.

Is your child on track?

Is she learning what she

needs to know? Are you doing all you can to support her in school?

Use your child's report card as an opportunity to review her progress and talk about your expectations.

Here's how:

1. **Take it seriously.** A report card can't tell you everything about how your child is doing, but your child's teacher spends a lot of time making sure that the report card shows a snapshot of where your child is now. Read it carefully.
2. **Remain calm**—especially if your child's grades weren't what you'd expected. Wait until you can quietly discuss what you and your child can do to improve her grades.
3. **Find something to praise.** Did your child earn a higher grade in math last quarter? Did the teacher make positive comments about her behavior or work habits?
4. **Let your child know** what you expect. Say things like, "You don't have to be *the* best. But I do expect you to do *your* best." Remind her that effort is as important as ability.
5. **Contact the teacher** if you or your child has any questions about her report card.



# Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

December 2021



## Improve conversations with your child about the school day

Talking with your child about school every day shows her that you think her education is important. And discussing what she's learning and doing is a great way for you to get a sense of her strengths and areas she might need help with.

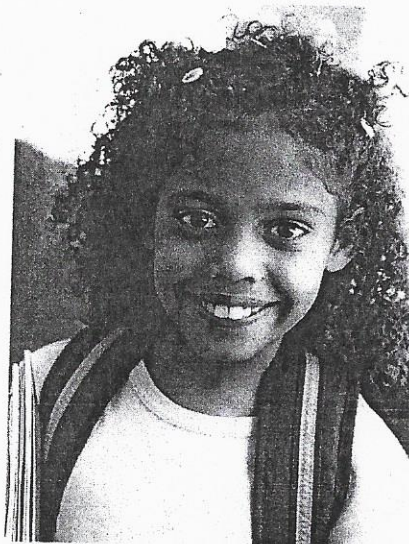
But if all you hear when you ask your child how school is going is "fine," try these conversation strategies:

- **Talk about your own day first.**

Give your child the kinds of details you'd like to hear from her. For example: "I did a lot of different things today. I had a meeting with my boss in the morning. I took Grandma to her doctor's appointment this afternoon. Afterward, we stopped at the store to pick up some milk and vegetables." Then ask her to tell you about her day.

- **Ask specific, open-ended questions.** "Is your schoolwork too hard, too easy or just right?" "What did you do today in class that made you feel good?" "What was the funniest thing that happened today?"

- **Look over your child's schoolwork.** Did the teacher return a worksheet or drawing? Make several observations about what you see—what you remember liking about the subject, what it reminds you of, etc. Then say, "Tell me about what you learned about this."



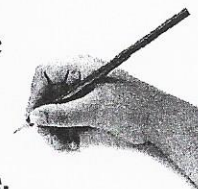
## Celebrate accomplishments

He did it! Your child raised his math grade this quarter. Or he finally finished reading a book series. The good feelings that come with reaching a challenging goal are great motivators. To encourage them, help your child celebrate his hard work and accomplishment. Post a picture of him with his report card or book in a place of honor, or serve a victory dinner of his favorite foods.

## Strengthen study skills

Study skills are increasingly vital as students reach upper grades. Help your child practice:

- **Taking notes.** When she reads at home, have your child write down key words, facts and main points.

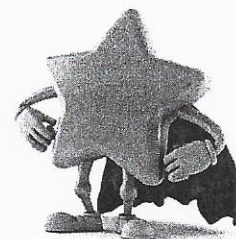


- **Planning study time.**

Have her make a to-do list before a test: Review, draw diagrams, solve sample problems, etc. Then help her schedule time for each task.

## Highlight character heroes

You are your child's primary role model. But you don't have to be the only one! Draw on other people to provide examples of positive traits and actions. Point to:



- **Relatives, friends** or celebrities who show respect, responsibility, honesty or other desirable behavior.
- **Your heroes.** Talk with your child about people such as John Lewis, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Corrie ten Boom and John Glenn and why you admire them.

Explain to your child that heroes aren't always famous. They can be familiar people like a grandmother who worked to put a child through college. Encourage your child to find or draw pictures of his heroes.



## Respond to cheating by addressing the reasons why it happens

When elementary schoolers cheat in school, understanding the reasons why is an essential part of stopping the behavior. Here are four common reasons:

1. **They are afraid** of what their parents will do if they earn a poor grade. Make it clear that a low grade would not be the end of your love for your child. Say that you would be more concerned about the situation than angry.

2. **They have high expectations** for their own academic achievement. Remind your child that a grade on a test or assignment doesn't reflect a person's worth or intelligence.

3. **They think cheating** is no big deal. For many children, the line between right and wrong is still a bit blurry. Tell your child that cheating is *always* wrong. Cheaters rob themselves of learning, and they are unfair to honest students.

4. **They were asked to.** Help your child role-play turning down a request to cheat.

Source: A. Morin, "How to Discipline Your Child for Cheating in School," Verywell Family.

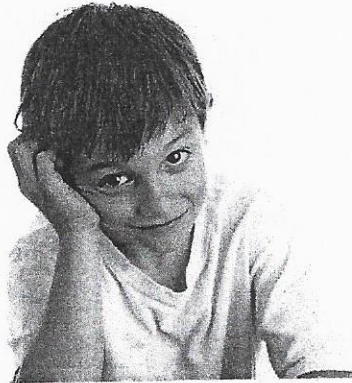




## Q&A How can I help my child learn to be more patient?

**Q:** My son wants everything now. He complains loudly when he has to wait. His teacher says his impatience is becoming a problem in class. What can I do about this?

**A:** It takes patience to wait for a turn to speak, to read all the way to the end of a long book, or to understand something that isn't immediately clear. Helping your child develop more patience will make learning easier for him—and his classmates.



To strengthen patience:

- **Acknowledge the challenge.** Let your child know you understand how hard it can be to wait for something. Then explain that everyone has to learn patience, and that you will help him with this skill.
- **Set an example.** When you're stuck in traffic, for example, stay calm. Say something like, "Let's use this waiting time to make up a story."
- **Provide practice.** When your child asks for something, say, "In a minute." Enjoy activities together that require patience, such as putting together puzzles and baking.
- **Share strategies to use** while waiting, such as observing things around you and reading to pass the time until another activity.
- **Notice and praise success.** "You waited patiently while I listened to your brother. Now I am going to listen carefully to you."

## Parent Quiz

### Is your child spending leisure time wisely?

All work and no play is a dull way to live. But all play and no work leaves your child unprepared for life. Are you helping your child use time out of school in productive ways? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you set** limits on recreational screen time?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you make** reading together a regular family activity?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you ensure** that your child takes part in daily physical activity?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you help** your child find out more about topics that interest her?
- \_\_\_ **5. Do you ask** your child to help you with tasks you are doing around your home?

#### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are encouraging your child to spend free time in positive ways. For each no, try that idea.*

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."  
—Michael Altschuler*

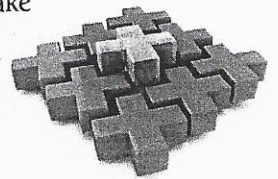
## Promote persistence when the going gets tough

Schoolwork can be challenging, and there may be times your child will feel like giving up. To encourage her to persevere:

- 1. Discuss past successes.** Has she overcome obstacles like this before? How did she do it?
- 2. Set a realistic short-term goal.** Learning the two times table is a key step toward mastering multiplication.
- 3. Recognize improvement.** Trying hard and learning from mistakes are major accomplishments!

## Use family meetings to teach leadership skills

Leadership develops important school skills like communication and problem-solving. But kids need to learn that good leaders aren't bossy—they make people *want* to work together. Family meetings are a great way to help your child consider other people's points of view as you work toward shared goals. Let your child take a turn chairing the meetings and making sure everyone gets a chance to be heard.



## Make responsibility easier

Elementary students are still learning how to be responsible. To help your child understand and carry out responsibilities:

- **Use checklists.** Write down what your child is expected to do: chores, self-care responsibilities, tasks for school. Let him check items off as he completes them.
- **Designate places** where he should store his things when he's not using them.
- **Show him how** to track assignments and commitments on his own calendar.

### Helping Children Learn®

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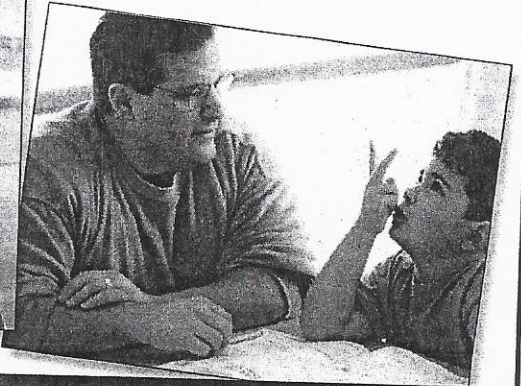
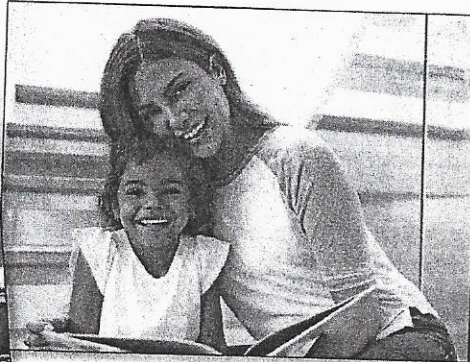
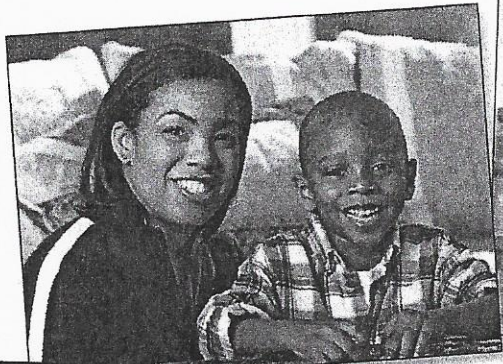
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# Daily Learning Planner

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

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2021-2022

## December 2021

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

- 1. Holidays have you feeling hassled? Share the responsibility. As kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.
- 2. Have your child draw a scene from a book onto a narrow piece of cardboard to make a bookmark.
- 3. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go and why?" Together, do some research to learn more about this location.
- 4. If your family will be seeing older relatives this month, have your child talk to them about their school days.
- 5. Begin telling your child a story, and when you get to an exciting part, stop. Let her make up the rest.
- 6. Teach your child how to cut out paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.
- 7. Talk with your child about the nicest thing someone has ever done for him. What made it special?
- 8. Ask your child to give you an "evening news report" about her day. What's the lead story?
- 9. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- 10. Have your child pick a word, then put its letters in alphabetical order.
- 11. Plan a device-free day. Let your child choose alternative activities.
- 12. Have your child compare the prices of two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 13. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 14. Discuss nutrition. Have your child name five foods that are healthy, then two foods that taste good but are not healthy.
- 15. Enjoy some physical activity with your child.
- 16. Tonight, have your child draw the moon's shape. Is it a crescent, full circle, half circle?
- 17. Ask your child to estimate how many times he blinks in a minute, then count to see.
- 18. Pay your child a genuine, specific compliment today.
- 19. With your child, think of words that sound like what they mean, such as *buzz*, *smash*, *hiss* and *thump*.
- 20. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a pet.
- 21. Ask about qualities your child values in friends. Talk about why values are important.
- 22. Do body arithmetic. Ask your child how much her fingers, knees, toes and nose add up to.
- 23. Cut apart the frames of a comic strip and ask your child to arrange the pieces in the right order.
- 24. Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
- 25. Read a book aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
- 26. Talk about the free or low-cost activities your family enjoyed most during 2021. If possible, make plans to do them again in 2022.
- 27. Ask for your child's help with a household task, such as making dinner.
- 28. Talk with your child about people he admires and why he does.
- 29. Have your child write step-by-step directions for making a sandwich. Then follow them exactly. Did they work?
- 30. Ask what your child would like to make an annual tradition. Start it!
- 31. Find interesting pictures of people. Ask your child to write captions.



# January 2022

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

- 1. Encourage your child to start a diary or journal for 2022.
- 2. Tonight, take a walk with your child. What sounds can you hear?
- 3. Brainstorm with your child about something you would both like to learn, such as how to play chess. Check out a how-to book.
- 4. Choose a number from one to 12, then have your child list all the things she can think of that come in that number.
- 5. Write an encouraging note to your child and tuck it in her lunch box or a school book.
- 6. Teach your child to take his pulse. Have him jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?
- 7. Send your child on a treasure hunt. Make a map that will lead her to a small treat.
- 8. Have your child replace adjectives on a printed ad with their opposites.
- 9. Together, plan your child's recreational screen time for this week.
- 10. Help your child interview family and friends in career fields that interest him. What is a typical day like for them?
- 11. Have your child set a goal and write a plan to achieve it by the end of the school year.
- 12. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 13. Think of several words that start with the same letter. Can your child use them in a sentence that makes sense?
- 14. Choose a news story. Cut off the headline. Challenge your child to read the article and write his own headline.
- 15. Ask your child what she thinks are her strong skills and why.
- 16. Organize something with your child, such as a closet.
- 17. Trace your child's outline on paper. Then have him research and "map" the inside of his body.
- 18. Teach your child to call 911 in an emergency. Together, practice what to say.
- 19. Explain to your child how people reach compromises. Give an example.
- 20. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 21. Together, role-play a difficult situation your child may face.
- 22. Give family members marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 23. Look for a new kind of transportation to try with your child.
- 24. Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times. Try it and see if she's right.
- 25. Hold a family meeting. Discuss your family's goals and successes.
- 26. Write fractions on cards. Mix them up. Have your child put them in order from smallest to greatest.
- 27. Have a family jump rope contest. How many jumps can you do in a row?
- 28. Make a chore chart with your child. List his chores and when they should be completed.
- 29. Talk with your child about things people use that come from plants.
- 30. Invent a word with your child. Help her write a definition as it would appear in the dictionary.
- 31. Have your child read the label on a food he eats. What vitamins does it contain? How much sugar is in it?

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# February 2022

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- 1. Have a silent dinner. Then, during dessert, have family members share what they were thinking about.
- 2. It's Groundhog Day. How many words can your child make from the letters in the word GROUNDHOG?
- 3. Talk about all the things your child does right. List as many things as you can.
- 4. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 5. Share an inspirational quote with your child.
- 6. When you read aloud, choose an suspenseful place to stop. Ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?"
- 7. Ask your child to name her favorite sport, and say why she likes it.
- 8. Watch the news with your child. Choose a person of the week. Together, read more about that person.
- 9. See how many words your child can use to describe the sky today.
- 10. With your child, estimate how many bowls of cereal you can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
- 11. Figure out the average of something with your child, such as family members' ages.
- 12. Visit a local or online art museum with your child and talk about the paintings.
- 13. Have your child write a special Valentine's message to someone who is sick or lonely. Help him send or deliver it.
- 14. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and let her know you love her.
- 15. Pick a category (cities, animals) and a letter. How many items from that category can your child name that begin with that letter?
- 16. Does your child need new books? Help him organize a neighborhood book swap.
- 17. Give your child weekly tickets worth 30 minutes of recreational screen time each. Let her cash in unused tickets for small treats.
- 18. Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- 19. At dinner, ask everyone to share something that made them happy this week.
- 20. Schedule a 20-minute family D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read).
- 21. At bedtime, allow a few minutes after the light is off for a quiet conversation with your child.
- 22. It's the birthday of George Washington. How many facts can your child list about this famous president?
- 23. Talk with your child about a choice you have made. Then talk about the consequences.
- 24. Look for a TV program on science or history. Watch it with your child.
- 25. Have family members write reviews of books they've read.
- 26. Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes picking up the house. Many hands make light work.
- 27. Look at a blank map of the country together. Can your child name the states or provinces that surround yours?
- 28. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.

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