

Parent Pointers

Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Review your goals for the new year. Are family members working toward them as planned?	2 Students with good grades take good notes. Teach your child to take notes and study them.	3 Notice the moon's shape with your child. Why does it look the way it does?	4 Some children find that when doing homework, it helps to go from hardest to easiest.	5 Establish a regular bedtime for your child. Make it part of an overall nighttime routine.	6 Don't pay your child for regular chores. All family members should help out around the house.
7 Consider taking a class with your child—cooking, painting, in-line skating, etc.	8 Teach your child to make daily "to do" lists. She should do the most important things first.	9 Tell your child, "Winning isn't as important as how you play the game."	10 Limit when your child can watch TV. For example, not during meals or homework time.	11 Is your child learning another language? Ask her to say some foreign words or phrases to you.	12 Make regular "appointments" to spend time with your child. Don't allow yourself to cancel.	13 After reading a story, have your child rewrite it with a different ending.
14 Choose one day a week to visit the library. Think of interesting things to research there.	15 Ask your child, "What's the most interesting thing you learned today?"	16 Make a decision as a family. This builds cooperation and communication skills.	17 Don't let your child stay home alone for long periods. Middle schoolers need adult supervision.	18 Have your child list everything she needs at school. Keep the checklist by the front door.	19 Ask your child to teach you something he's learning in school. Let him explain it, even if you understand.	20 Rent the movie version of a book your child has read. How do the versions compare?
21 Teach your child a memory trick, such as "i before e, except after c ..."	22 Does your child know where your ancestors came from? Discuss this with her.	23 Remind your child of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."	24 Play a listening game. Have your child repeat what you say word-for-word. Then switch roles.	25 Color-coded book covers help kids (and their lockers) stay organized.	26 Tell your child that school is his job. It's more important than sports, hobbies and TV.	27 Do a "random act of kindness" with your child. Brainstorm together about what to do.
28 Celebrate spring by planting something with your child. Ask what she'd like to grow.	29 When helping your child with schoolwork, be positive, even if your child gets discouraged.	30 Learn about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Explain them to your child.	31 Be on the lookout for things your child does right. Compliment her successes.	<h1>March 2010</h1>		

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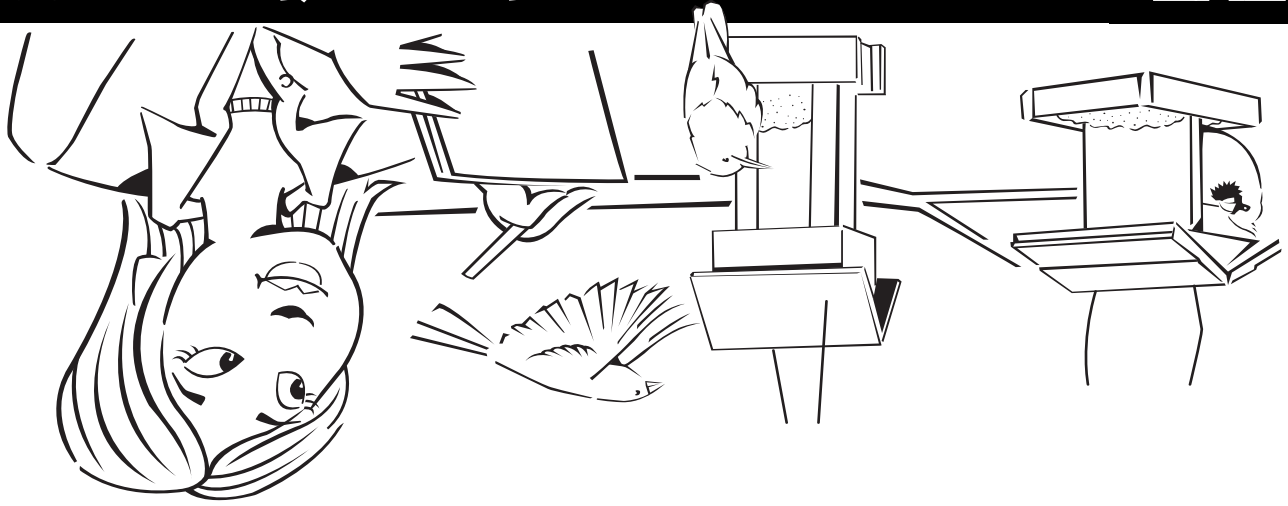
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<h1>April 2010</h1>				1 Ask your child about something he brought home from school, such as a book, test or art project.	2 Help your child consider possible consequences before making a decision.	3 Invent a recipe with your child. If it doesn't work, try to fix it together.
4 Give your child a fun responsibility, such as choosing a gift for a friend or relative.	5 Figure out the average of something with your child, such as family members' ages.	6 Check the TV listings for nature programs. Choose some to watch with your child.	7 Does criticism make your child angry? Remind her that it can help her improve herself.	8 Expect your child to study every day, even if he doesn't have any homework.	9 To help your child avoid eating disorders, don't judge others by their looks.	10 Play music while the family does chores. Have fun singing and dancing while you work.
11 Consider limiting TV viewing to weekends. Good weekday shows can be recorded.	12 Expect your child to write thank-you notes for gifts. It's polite and it builds writing skills.	13 Help your child think of tough situations he might face. How would he handle them?	14 Look for materials at the library printed in a language your child is studying.	15 Show your child you're listening to him. Make eye contact, nod and respond verbally.	16 Find a place for your child to display things he's proud of, such as awards and good grades.	17 List your priorities in life, including family. Does your schedule reflect what's most important?
18 Encourage your child to be a gracious winner and a good loser.	19 Plan a reading dinner. Let everyone bring books to the table.	20 Help your child set a long-term goal. Then help him plan how to reach it.	21 Remember that the key to getting your child's respect is showing your child respect.	22 Celebrate Earth Day by doing something good for the environment, such as recycling.	23 When your children fight, have them switch roles. It helps to see others' points of view.	24 Let your child take notes at family meetings. Refer to them later as needed.
25 Does your child study well with others? If so, let her start a study group.	26 Remind your child of a past achievement. This can build self-confidence.	27 Help your child find the best study time for her. When is she most alert?	28 Girls who mature early may be at risk for eating disorders. Learn the symptoms of these illnesses.	29 Write down your family's most important rules. Post them in a noticeable spot.	30 Practice estimation with your child. Have him guess how long it will take to do something or go somewhere.	

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United Independent School District
Annette Perez, Parental Involvement Dir.

Calendar

Parent Pointers

Middle School

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May 2010						1 Create a "study spot" for your child stocked with reference books and other helpful supplies.
2 Before a parent-teacher conference, ask your child what he'd like you to discuss.	3 Books are great gifts for kids. Ask your librarian to recommend some.	4 Watching too much TV can hurt reading skills. Limit screen time to no more than 10 hours a week.	5 Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help her raise them before the year ends.	6 Together, make a "world time" display with several clocks. Set them to times in different countries.	7 Talk with your child about going to college. How can he start preparing now?	8 Volunteering can give your child valuable work experience. Ask what he could do.
9 Talk with your child about a reality TV show. Does it reflect your family's values?	10 Helping kids with homework can be tough. Ask your child's teacher for advice.	11 Does your child share a bedroom? Arrange for her to have privacy sometimes.	12 Say things that encourage persistence, such as "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."	13 Suggest that your child start a book club. She and her friends can discuss and trade books.	14 Play the card game "concentration" to sharpen your child's memory.	15 Build your child's creative skills. Have him write a story about living in the past or future.
16 If your child asks you about sex, don't tease her or get angry. Take her questions seriously.	17 Ask what your child is reading in class, then read the same thing.	18 Flashcards can help your child memorize information, such as facts and definitions.	19 Encourage your child to take algebra in middle school. It's linked to career and college success.	20 If you have a computer at home, let your child use it. Typing a letter to a friend can build interest in writing.	21 Suggest that your child keep track of what she reads. She may be impressed by the list.	22 Your child is most likely to obey rules if you enforce them consistently.
23 Listen to an audio book with your child.	24 Thank your child for something.	25 Don't ask, "Do you have homework?" Instead, expect your child to study every day.	26 Notice your child's interests and talents. Then encourage them.	27 To improve behavior, give your child more attention for being good than bad.	28 Chalkboards are fun decorations for kids' rooms. They also encourage writing.	29 When your child is talking to you, tune everything else out and really concentrate.
30 Read the newspaper together.	31 Teach your child a card game.					