

Parent Pointers

Calendar

Middle School
Parents
still make the difference!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| March 2007 | | | | 1 Try to have a rhyming conversation with your child today. It may be tough at first, but you'll get better! | 2 Give your child plenty of privacy. For example, knock before entering her room. | 3 Does your child want to see a movie? Consider seeing it yourself first to make sure it is appropriate. |
| 4 Help your child make a savings plan for a special purchase. | 5 Have your child tell you about the assignments due this week at school. | 6 When your child expresses an opinion, encourage him to support it with facts. | 7 Tell your child a story about when you were a middle schooler. | 8 Celebrate National Nutrition Month by shopping for extra healthy foods. | 9 Brainstorm about something, such as how your family can lower the electric bill. | 10 Suggest that your child start a book club with friends. Offer to host meetings at your home. |
| 11 It's Johnny Appleseed Day. Do research to find out why he is honored. | 12 Take advantage of any chances you have to talk with your child. Kids this age tend to talk less. | 13 Start keeping a family TV diary. See what—and how much—you're watching. | 14 Kids who can't see well have trouble reading. Have your child's vision checked, or make an appointment to do so. | 15 Make plans for a one-on-one activity with your child. Ask what she'd like to do. | 16 Relax with your child tonight. Ask if he'd like to pop popcorn and watch a movie. | 17 Teach your child a fun skill, such as how to juggle fruit or use a yo-yo. |
| 18 Teach your child a three-step process for any job: Plan, do, finish. | 19 While shopping, have your child use math to compare prices. | 20 Surprise your child with something nice, such as a card or a favorite dinner. | 21 Open an encyclopedia to a random page. See what interesting facts you find there. | 22 Get some exercise with your child. Let him suggest an activity. | 23 Read a book about middle schoolers. It may help you understand your child better. | 24 Suicide rates have risen among middle schoolers. Learn the warning signs to look for. |
| 25 Have a formal family dinner. Everyone should dress up and use their best manners. | 26 Encourage imagination. Ask questions like, "How do you think that book will end?" | 27 Ask your child about her dreams for the future. How can she work toward them now? | 28 Think of <i>onomatopoeias</i> with your child (words that sound like their meaning), such as <i>buzz</i> . | 29 Forbid your child to smoke. If you smoke, make every effort to quit. | 30 Have your child write a letter to a company about a product she uses. | 31 Let your child choose clothes to buy within your budget and your guidelines. |

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|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1 Play a game that teaches strategy skills, such as tic-tac-toe, checkers or chess. | 2 Review your child's goals for the school year. Compliment her progress. | 3 Talk with your child about how each of you could improve your listening skills. | 4 It's Mathematics Education Month. Count how many times you use math today. | 5 Talk about peaceful ways your child can handle conflicts with peers. | 6 Make plans for a family night. Let your child choose the day and the activity. | 7 Take turns choosing videos to rent. You'll learn about your child's interests. |
| 8 Let your child make a decision, such as what the family should have for dinner tonight. | 9 Note your child's artistic or athletic performances on the calendar. Make every effort to attend. | 10 Plan a family activity and put it on the calendar. Treat it as the important event that it is. | 11 Nurture creativity. Ask questions that start with "What if ... ?" and "Why do you think ... ?" | 12 Ask your child if he knows any bullies. Some kids are embarrassed to admit they're being bullied. | 13 Let your child stay up late to read. Let her sleep in tomorrow morning. | 14 Check out an astronomy book at the library. Can your child find a constellation in the sky? |
| 15 Participate in an event that helps others, such as a walk for charity. | 16 Give your child the facts about sex—and discuss how values relate to the facts. | 17 Play a rhyming game. Have family members say words that rhyme until you run out. | 18 Explain a family rule to your child instead of just saying, "Do it because I said so." | 19 Check out a book on simple science experiments to do at home. Try one with your child. | 20 Suggest a book to your child in which the main character is a good role model. | 21 Look at old pictures of your child. Reminisce about how many things he has learned. |
| 22 Teach your child a helpful saying, such as "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." | 23 Today is the beginning of TV-Turnoff Week. List fun alternatives to watching TV. | 24 Help your child make a planning sheet to use with big assignments. | 25 Give your child a history lesson. What was life like 30 years ago? | 26 Apologize to your child for something when it's appropriate. This shows that everyone makes mistakes. | 27 Post a funny saying or comic strip where your child will see it. | 28 Help your child make a checklist of things to remember before leaving for school. |
| 29 Think of a meaningful quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it. | 30 Ask your child to name her favorite class. What makes it so interesting? | April 2007 | | | | |

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Middle School Parents

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|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| May 2007 | | 1 Have a family meeting. Use the time to work toward family goals and give praise. | 2 Tell your child a story that teaches an important lesson. | 3 Look through a family photo album. Tell your child inspiring stories about relatives. | 4 Have each family member name a hero and explain why this person is special. | 5 It's <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> . Can your child figure out why this day is celebrated in Mexico? |
| 6 Serve your child a healthy breakfast in bed. | 7 Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Suggest that your child thank her favorite teacher. | 8 Give your child several reasons why you are so happy to be his parent. | 9 Compare your family's values to those on TV. How are they different or alike? | 10 Allow your child to subscribe to an age-appropriate magazine to build reading skills. | 11 Write a family letter to someone special. Let each person write part of it. | 12 Do something nice for someone with your child, such as help an elderly neighbor. |
| 13 Go on a nature walk with your child. Notice things you have never seen before. | 14 Ask your child to help you solve a crossword puzzle. This builds important vocabulary skills. | 15 Look over your child's homework when she is done. Find something to compliment. | 16 Thank your child for something he did, whether you asked him to do it or not. | 17 Report card time is coming. Vow to focus on problem-solving and being positive. | 18 Let your child calculate the tip at a restaurant. This gives her practice with percentages. | 19 Wonder aloud about a new scientific discovery. Talk with your child about its possible implications. |
| 20 Make family fitness a priority. Choose one day a week to do something active together. | 21 Mention something you learned recently to your child. This shows that you value education. | 22 Teach your child a new card game. | 23 Write a thank-you note to a teacher who helped your child this year. | 24 Ask your child which classes he is excited to take in high school. | 25 Watch a nature program on TV with your child. | 26 Attend a cultural event with your child, such as a concert or an art exhibit. |
| 27 Make a list of audio books your family can listen to in the car this summer. | 28 Write your child notes and have her write back. Writing builds reading skills. | 29 Look over your child's summer reading list. Plan to read some of the books yourself. | 30 Open the dictionary to a random page. What new words can you find there? | 31 Brainstorm about where your family would go on a dream vacation. | | |