

Parent Pointers

Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Let your child see you reading for pleasure. This sets a good example.	2 Start keeping a family television diary. See what—and how much—you're watching.	3 Read a book about middle schoolers. It may help you understand your child better.	4 Celebrate National Nutrition Month by shopping for extra-healthy foods.	5 Encourage imagination. Ask questions like, "How do you think that book will end?"	6 Take advantage of any chances you have to talk with your child. Kids this age tend to talk less.	7 Teach your child a fun skill, such as how to juggle fruit or use a yo-yo.
8 Try to have a rhyming conversation with your child today. It may be tough at first, but you'll get better!	9 Teach your child a three-step process for any job: Plan, do, finish.	10 Tell your child a story about when you were a middle schooler.	11 It's Johnny Appleseed Day. Do research to find out why he is honored.	12 Forbid your child to smoke. If you smoke, make every effort to quit.	13 Does your child want to see a movie? Consider seeing it yourself first to make sure it is appropriate.	14 Let your child choose clothes to buy within your budget and your guidelines.
15 While shopping, have your child use math to compare prices.	16 Kids who can't see well have trouble reading. Have your child's vision checked, or make an appointment to do so.	17 Think of onomatopoeias with your child (words that sound like their meanings), such as <i>buzz</i> .	18 When your child expresses an opinion, encourage him to support it with facts.	19 Have your child write a letter to a company about a product she uses.	20 Brainstorm about something, such as how your family can lower the electric bill.	21 Get some exercise with your child. Let him suggest an activity.
22 Have a formal family dinner. Everyone should dress up and use their best manners.	23 Suggest that your child start a book club with friends. Offer to host meetings at your home.	24 Give your child plenty of privacy. For example, knock before entering her room.	25 Suicide rates have risen among middle schoolers. Learn the warning signs.	26 Check out an astronomy book at the library. Can your child find a constellation in the sky?	27 Help your child make a checklist of things to remember before leaving for school.	28 Take turns choosing videos to rent. You'll learn about your child's interests.
29 Post a funny saying or comic strip where your child will see it.	30 Explain a family rule to your child instead of just saying, "Do it because I said so."	31 Play a game that teaches strategy skills, such as tic-tac-toe, checkers or chess.	<h1>March 2009</h1>			

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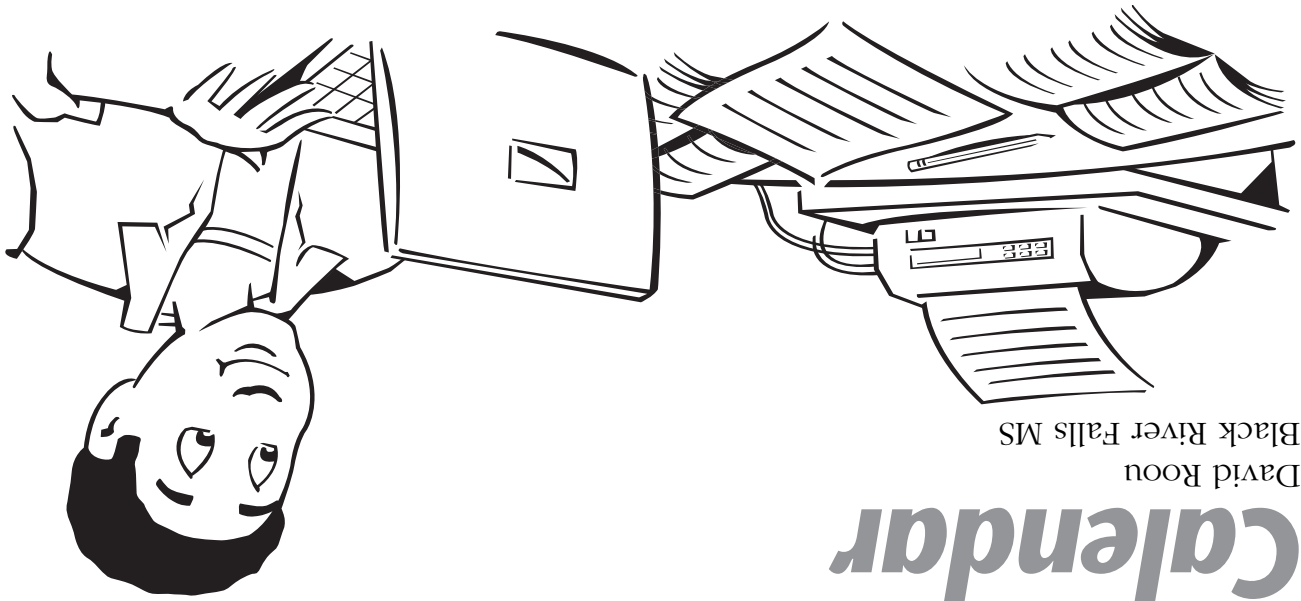
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<h1>April 2009</h1>			1 Think of a meaningful quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.	2 Play a rhyming game. Have family members say words that rhyme until you run out.	3 Ask your child if he knows any bullies. Some kids are embarrassed to admit they're being bullied.	4 Help your child make a planning sheet to use for big assignments.
5 Plan a family activity and put it on the calendar. Treat it as the important event that it is.	6 It's Mathematics Education Month. Have family members count how many times they use math today.	7 Make plans for a family night. Let your child choose the day and the activity.	8 Check out a book on simple science experiments to do at home. Try one with your child.	9 Review your child's goals for the school year. Compliment his progress.	10 Let your child stay up late to read. Let her sleep in tomorrow morning.	11 Participate in an event that helps others, such as a walk for charity.
12 Ask your child to run a few errands with you today. Use the time to talk and connect with your child.	13 Surprise your child with something nice, such as a card or a favorite dinner.	14 Ask your child about her dreams for the future. How can she work toward them now?	15 Have your child tell you about the assignments due this week at school.	16 Make plans for a one-on-one activity with your child. Ask what she'd like to do.	17 Relax with your child tonight. Ask if he'd like to pop popcorn and watch a movie.	18 Open an encyclopedia to a random page. See what interesting facts you find there.
19 Compare your family's values to those on TV. How are they different or alike?	20 Today is the beginning of TV-Turnoff Week. List fun alternatives to watching TV.	21 Write your child notes and have her write back. Writing builds reading skills.	22 Wonder aloud about a new scientific discovery. Talk with your child about its possible implications.	23 Tell your child a story that teaches an important lesson.	24 Ask your child which classes he is excited to take in high school.	25 Let your child calculate the tip at a restaurant. This gives her practice with percents.
26 Give your child the facts about sex—and discuss how values relate to the facts.	27 Nurture your child's creativity. Ask questions that start with "What if ..." and "Why do you think ...?"	28 Apologize to your child for something when it's appropriate. This shows that everyone makes mistakes.	29 Note your child's artistic or athletic performances on the calendar. Make every effort to attend.	30 Suggest a book to your child in which the main character is a good role model.		

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Black River Falls MS
David Roon

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Middle School

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May 2009					1 Talk with your child about how each of you could improve your listening skills.	2 Go on a nature walk with your child. Notice things you have never seen before.
3 Ask your child to help you solve a crossword puzzle. This builds important vocabulary skills.	4 Celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Suggest that your child thank his favorite teacher.	5 It's Cinco de Mayo. Can your child figure out why this day is celebrated in Mexico?	6 Mention something you learned recently to your child. This shows that you value education.	7 Report card time is coming. Vow to focus on problem-solving and being positive.	8 Look over your child's homework when she is done. Find something to compliment.	9 Make family fitness a priority. Choose one day a week to do something active together.
10 Have a family meeting. Use the time to work toward family goals and give praise.	11 It's Reading is Fun Week. Show your child that reading is fun by reading yourself.	12 Open the dictionary to a random page. What new words can you find there?	13 Write a family letter to someone special. Let each person write part of it.	14 Brainstorm about where your family would go on a dream vacation.	15 Look through a family photo album. Tell your child inspiring stories about relatives.	16 Attend a cultural event with your child, such as a concert or art exhibit.
17 Talk about peaceful ways your child can handle conflicts with peers.	18 Teach your child a helpful saying, such as "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."	19 Let your child make a decision, such as what the family should have for dinner tonight.	20 Give your child a history lesson. What was life like 30 years ago?	21 Make a list of audio books your family can listen to in the car this summer.	22 Look at old pictures of your child. Reminisce about how many things he has learned.	23 Ask your child to name her favorite class. What makes it interesting?
24 Serve your child breakfast in bed.	25 Thank your child for something he did.	26 Do something nice for someone with your child, such as helping an elderly neighbor.	27 Look over your child's summer reading list. Plan to read some of the books yourself.	28 Give your child several reasons why you are so happy to be her parent.	29 Allow your child to subscribe to an age-appropriate magazine to build reading skills.	30 Write a thank-you note to a teacher who helped your child this year.
31 Teach your child a card game.						