

The  
Best Year  
EVER

Planning Kit

Lively Minds Tutoring

# Best Year Ever Planning Kit

## Directions

Be intentional for this year. Know what is important and what isn't and create a customized plan for your student. Take a look at each of the four categories that work together for academic success, and evaluate what would be the most effective ideas for your child and your family. Follow this plan, and you have a plan to set your child up for a year of progress, growth, and confidence building.

We are excited to help you make this your child's best year ever. Simply follow the five steps below, and use the sheets provided. Happy Planning!

1. Assess the situation with the Best Year Ever Assessment Rubric.
2. Choose some solutions from the Best Year Ever Ideas Sheet.
3. Evaluate the solutions with the Best Year Ever Reflection Sheet.
4. Commit to plan of action with the Best Year Ever Plan Sheet.
5. Re-evaluate your solutions based on your previous Reflection Sheet.

# The Best Year Ever Assessment Rubric

Take a look at each of the four areas to see which ones need the most attention. Which areas would you consider to be strengths? Which areas would you consider to be weaknesses? You can take a look at the following ideas page to get a feel for what is included in each category.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Home</b>	Student has all the good habits at home that he needs to support his education.	Student has some good habits at home that he needs to support his education, but he could use more.	Student has one or two good habits at home that he needs to support his education, and he needs several more.	Student does not have any good habits at home that he needs to support his education.
<b>School</b>	Student has the level of family involvement at school necessary for a positive year.	Student has some family involvement at school necessary for a positive year, but he could have more.	Student has a little family involvement at school necessary for a positive year, and he needs quite a bit more.	Student does not have any of the family involvement at school necessary for a positive year.
<b>Child</b>	Student has all of the personal skills he needs for academic success.	Student has some of the personal skills he needs for academic success, but he could use more.	Student has one or two of the personal skills he needs for academic success, and he needs a few more.	Student does not have the personal skills he needs for academic success.
<b>Academics</b>	Student has all of the academic support necessary to thrive in school.	Student has some of the academic support necessary to thrive in school, but he could use more.	Student has a little of the academic support necessary to thrive in school, and he needs more.	Student does not have the academic support necessary to thrive in school.

# Ideas for the Best Year Ever

We often try to do too much. From the assessment that you've already completed, choose 4-8 ideas from each category. You will be able to reflect on these ideas so that you can choose a final 3-5 solutions that will work the best for your custom plan.

## School

1. Meet the teacher.
2. Let the teacher know that you want a partnership.
3. Make it clear that you want to be contacted with problems.
4. Schedule periodic emails to check how student is doing.
5. Make appointments for all parent-teacher conferences.
6. Get to know who's who at school.
7. Learn what the school offers.
8. Go to the school fundraisers.
9. Go to the school functions.
10. Volunteer to help in the classroom.
11. Be a room parent.
12. Volunteer to plan a party.
13. Volunteer to help at home.
14. Be an advocate for your child.
15. Learn about your child's rights.
16. Let the school know if you have concerns.
17. Ask what you can do to support the teacher.

## Home

1. Say positive things about education.
2. Model that you value education.
3. Show interest in your child's education.
4. Encourage your child to read.
5. Read TO your child.
6. Discuss what you read.
7. Play vocabulary games.
8. Play math card games.
9. Plan time to go to the library.
10. Give your child responsibilities.
11. Encourage active learning.
12. Encourage imaginative play.
13. Enforce healthy eating habits.
14. Help make a healthy breakfast.
15. Set up a homework space.

16. Make learning materials easy to find.
17. Limit screen time.
18. Have a bedtime.
19. Plan daily exercise.

## Child

1. Set aside a special time to talk with your child each day.
2. Find creative ways to ask how their day was.
3. LISTEN to your child.
4. Create SMART goals together.
5. Find out what is most important to your child this year.
6. Expect success.
7. Help child develop interests outside of school.
8. Encourage your child to have an opinion.
9. Help your child articulate his feelings about his day.
10. Hug your child.
11. Set rules and expectation.
12. Encourage him to do his best.
13. Praise the effort, not the skill.
14. Love unconditionally.
15. Be supportive even when the grades are low.
16. Listen to your child's ideas and respond to them.
17. Model to your child that we make our own success.

## Academics

1. Help with homework.
2. Don't do your child's homework for him.
3. Create a homework schedule.
4. Make learning fun.
5. Find out what they are doing in class.
6. Act early before your child gets behind.
7. If reading is a struggle, find out what the school can do to help.
8. Have your child evaluated if you notice him having problems with learning.
9. Find out what accommodations can be made in class.
10. Apply for special services if necessary.
11. Help your child prepare for tests.
12. Help your child feel less anxious about standardized tests.
13. Find support for your student if he is struggling.
14. Make projects interactive.
15. Break projects down into smaller pieces.
16. READ. READ. READ.

# Best Year Ever Reflections

It's time to ask yourself a few questions about the solutions that you chose from the Ideas for The Best Year Ever. Be realistic so that your plan will work for your child and your family. Only commit to 3-5 ideas in each category that you know you can actually make happen. Set everyone up for success!

1. Why do I think this idea is important?
2. What change do I think that it will make?
3. How much time will I need to commit to this idea?
4. When will I do this idea?
5. How will I know if it's successful?
6. What will I do if I get resistance from my child?
7. Who needs to be involved to make this idea work?
8. When will I start this idea?

# The Best Year EVER

## Home

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Child

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## School

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Academics

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

