

Tips to Help Kids Prepare for Back to School



It's almost upon us - back to school. With a little preparation, parents can help. Here's how to make the new few weeks as smooth as possible for your children:

Shopping tips ...

- 1 Make sure you know just what your kids need for school - that will save you from buying stuff you don't need or returning to the store once school has started and sales have ended.
- 2 Check your local stores and newspapers for sale items. Don't forget to get connected - additional coupons on stores Facebook pages and websites often available.
- 3 Shop around and try not to buy anything at full price.
- 4 Have a list and stick to it!
- 5 Let your children know how much things cost. They can also practice their math as you shop.
- 6 Check last year's supplies - there maybe some items that can be reused such as binders, crayons, rulers, pens and pencils. When buying clothes be prepared for growth spurts during the year and buy accordingly.
- 7 Start thinking ahead. Buying items later in the year and off season when they're marked for clearance can sometimes save you significant cash.
- 8 Keep all receipts in case you have returns.

Getting prepared ...

- 1 Backpacks - Now that you have the supplies, have your child get their backpacks ready.
- 2 Homework - Make sure all homework/book reports have been completed during the summer.
- 3 Start a new sleep routine now - Sleeping in is one of the best parts of summer, but can be a shock to your child's system when they suddenly have to wake up early again. Help them by getting them to bed earlier so they have an easier transition.
- 4 Show Them the Way - If you're new to the school, show your child their classroom, what entrance and exit to use and where the bathroom is located. Don't forget to point out where the collection area is. Some schools will allow you to take a tour during the summer and arrange to meet the teacher.
- 5 Prepare the Teacher - Meet the teacher and let them know about any specifics about behavior or health issues concerning your child.
- 6 You may want to check if you qualify for your child to receive free or reduced lunches at school.
- 7 Get excited - Let your kids talk with their friends and compare schedules. Remind them of all the things they love about school and teach them that learning can be fun!