

School Essentials for Every Toddler Starting School

The practical supplies families need at school and at home - including the easy-to-forget items.



MRS. BAILEY'S TIP: Label every item and confirm your school's supply, food and personal-care policies first.

PACK FOR SCHOOL

- ☐ **Child-size backpack**
Choose one large enough for a folder, artwork and a labeled change of clothes.
- ☐ **Two complete changes of clothing**
Include socks and underwear in a labeled wet/dry bag or zip bag.
- ☐ **Leakproof water bottle**
Use an easy-open style your child can manage independently.
- ☐ **Rest-time supplies**
A fitted sheet, light blanket and small comfort item, only if the school allows them.
- ☐ **Spare shoes and weather gear**
Send closed-toe shoes, a light jacket, sun hat or rain layer as needed.
- ☐ **Small laminated family photo**
A familiar photo can support comfort and separation during the first weeks.
- ☐ **Personal-care supplies**
Diapers, wipes, pull-ups, ointment or sunscreen with required permission forms.

KEEP AT HOME FOR PRACTICE

- ☐ **Jumbo triangular pencils**
The wider shape supports early grip and keeps pencils from rolling away.
- ☐ **Pencil grips**
Keep a few styles available so your child's teacher can recommend the best fit.
- ☐ **Blunt-tip child scissors**
Practice opening, closing and cutting strips before working on shapes.
- ☐ **Large washable glue sticks**
The wider barrel is easier for little hands to control than mini sticks.
- ☐ **Primary or baseline paper**
Use wide lines with a dotted middle line for early name and letter practice.
- ☐ **Thick crayons and washable markers**
Short, sturdy crayons and broad-line markers support hand strength.
- ☐ **Dry-erase practice tools**
Keep a small board, low-odor markers and an eraser for reusable practice.
- ☐ **Fine-motor helpers**
Play dough, tongs, tweezers, beads and lacing cards strengthen pre-writing muscles.

THE MOST OVERLOOKED ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Waterproof name labels or a laundry marker
- ☐ Reusable wet/dry bag for accidents and messy clothes
- ☐ Extra socks, underwear and a second pair of shoes
- ☐ Oversized T-shirt or washable art smock
- ☐ Copies of medical, allergy and authorized-pickup information
- ☐ A folder at home for school notices, forms and completed work

GET READY FOR THE FIRST DAY

1 LABEL IT

Put your child's first and last name on every item.

2 PRACTICE IT

Let your child open the backpack, bottle and containers.

3 PACK IT

Place each spare outfit together in one labeled bag.

4 RESTOCK IT

Check the backpack weekly and replace used supplies.

BEST PLACES FOR PRIMARY LEARNING SUPPLIES

Lakeshore Learning | Target | Walmart | KidsArt