

Some Back to School Tips

1. **Prepare:** Review the last communication note from the classroom teacher. A check list may have been provided to assist with the return to school ie. A list of items to send for the first day back. If your child is in a wheelchair, ensure that the brakes work and that the tires are inflated appropriately.
2. **Label:** your child's extra change of clothes, lunch bag & personal devices etc. If soiled clothing is sent home, please send a change of clean clothes for the next day.
3. **Inform:** Send a written note or call the teacher to share new information regarding: health, medicine, social/communication skills, behavior, allergies, likes/dislikes, motor skills, personal needs etc. Keep classroom staff informed of any changes throughout the year.
4. **Awareness of classroom/office personnel:** Know the name of: classroom teacher, EAs, principal etc.
5. **Awareness of school procedures:** re: arriving late & absences from school. There may be an attendance line to call. Do not forget to contact the bus or cab company if there is to be a cancellation.
6. **Communication with the teacher:** Read the daily communication book if your teacher uses one. Provide a written response if one is necessary or check or initial it in order to indicate that you have read the information. Write in the book to share information from home e.g. upcoming appointments, if your child has not eaten or slept well. If possible call the teacher before the start of the school day if you need to speak to him/her.
7. **Calendar:** Check your child's monthly calendar for such things as: special events, themes, field trips, open house, gym, library etc.
8. **Return:** permission forms etc. Library books are to be returned before the scheduled library visit.
9. **Low Tech/High Tech Communication devices:** e.g. Voca switches or aids. Ensure that the device is in working order & replace batteries when necessary. Store and transport the devices carefully, Tupperware or margarine containers are great, as they are an important part of your child's program. Label with your child's name. Listen with your child to the message each day. Record a message on the device with your child as it allows them to participate in class.