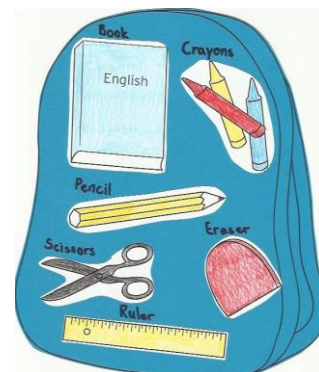


Fall 2014 Inspiration 2: My School Backpack

Starting the new school year is an exciting time for children. As kids are getting comfortable with school environments and routines, we focus on school supplies in “my school backpack” this week.

Get your backpack ready for school

It is inspiring to start back-to-school with new supplies, sharpened pencils, clean notebooks and school calendars; knowing that these will soon be filled with new ideas, words and events. Keep the excitement alive by using English to identify the materials you need to start school and continue throughout the school year. Promote positive habits by packing your school backpack each evening before bed. Go through all of the items in English and have the bag ready for the next day. Reinforce basic school supplies by making a paper backpack together. Gather these supplies: A4 white and colored paper, scissors, glue, crayons, markers and colored pencils.



1. Draw the shape of a backpack on one of the papers (we used blue paper). Depending on the age of the child, cut or allow him/her to cut out the shape.
2. Using the white paper, draw pictures of objects that need to be taken to school. Cut out the objects and glue them “into” the backpack paper. Depending on age/ability, have the child write words to label each picture. Discuss packing your school backpack:
 - o What do you need to take to school/bring home every day?
 - o Are there certain school supply items that you bring at the beginning of the year and leave in your desk (school cubby or hook) to use at school?
 - o Depending on the day, are there other special items that you need to pack for school (perhaps, gym day or forest day at school)?
3. For older children, write all of the letters of the alphabet on the paper backpack and challenge the child to write a school item that begins with each letter of the alphabet (in some cases, accept items that would “fit” in the backpack).

For an additional exercise, encourage the advanced child to make a school schedule and write actual lists in English of the items needed for school each day. Use this to gather and check-off each night.

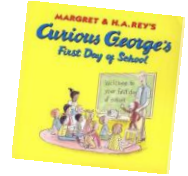
School Vocabulary

- Backpack: Scissors, crayon, pencil, marker, highlighter, book, ruler, eraser, glue, notebook, folder, pencil case, binder, mobile phone, calendar, homework assignment.
- Other items for back-to-school: Rainboots, raincoat, rainpants, inside gym shoes, shorts, jogging/exercise pants, socks, T-shirt, hoodie.

- School: Classroom, computer, table, chair, desk, whiteboard, blackboard, chalk, teacher, bell, clock, locker; raise your hand, wait your turn, wait in line.

Keep curious by reading

Since the first "Curious George" book was created in 1941 by Margret and H.A. Rey, the inquisitive monkey has remained popular with kids of all ages. Originally created in French, Curious George books have been translated into several languages all over the world. We enjoy reading "Curious George's First Day of School," as well as his other mischievous adventures with kids of all ages. Curious George books are available in Swedish and English at libraries or for purchase at: <http://www.bokus.com/bok/9780618605644/curious-georges-first-day-of-school/>



Identifying English vocabulary words for your child's school supply items is an effective way to integrate English into everyday life. Make it a routine to pack your backpack in English – you will be organized and prepared, while boosting your child's confidence to speak!

Upgrades English4Kids/Alexia Ross Jaldung (alexia.jaldung@upgrades.se)