



Early Learning Digest Tip Sheet



How Do I Get My Kids Ready for a New School Year?

Suggestions:

- Wait to shop until the school supply list comes home. It's tempting to get a heads up on sales and deals, but if you buy the wrong item, your child will refuse to use it.
- Buy extras of the sale items. Your child will lose things by Christmas or may want extra supplies for homework tasks at home.
- Get haircuts done early. Most school photos are taken the first week and you want to avoid that just-cut look.
- Get the Doctor, Optometrist, and Dentist appointments out of the way early.
- Take photos! Don't forget to measure and weigh your child or take a photo of them next to the same object every year. You forget how quickly they grow.
- Move back bedtimes. Change the lights out time 15 minutes per night for the two weeks before school.
- Pack away old school work. Put in boxes and label.
- New grade. New chores. Celebrate the addition of another year and how capable your child has grown.
- The day before school officially opens, walk the halls with your child, get their schedule and map out the hallway and bathroom routes.



- Arrange play dates with new buddies.
- Draw up a homework contract. Include stipulations that meet both your child's and your needs and both of you can sign it. Post on the wall for those inevitable whining moments.
- After the initial sales, stock up on extra supplies like binders, which can be marked down 80% by the end of September. Kids lose a lot of things.
- Clean up rooms at the end of August. Pick up garbage, recycle old books, clothes and toys. Assess whether new furniture needs to be purchased.

Excerpted from "Easy Peasy Parenting: 3000 instant solutions to respectfully solve everyday challenges." By Judy Arnall, 2015.



If you have concerns about your child's growth and development, please talk to your child's health care provider or www.helpmegrowmn.org and find out how you can get connected with various resources in Minnesota.



Tools to Help Families Find High-Quality Child Care and Early Education Programs

