

How to Get Organized for Back to School: Elementary through High School

Written by Kyra Love

Monday, 30 July 2012 19:25 - Last Updated Monday, 13 August 2012 11:37



As summer comes to a screeching halt, we dive headfirst into the new school year. Luckily we are not alone in our trip back into reality; The Container Store spokesperson, Olescia Hanson, has some great organization tips to make sure kids of all ages are prepared for their first day.



Backpack:

Hanson says that backpacks are an essential back-to-school item if last year's backpack looks raggedy or if your child has outgrown it. She stressed that you have to make sure it's the right size for your child—adjustable straps will help you make sure the backpack doesn't hang more than four inches below your child's waist.

Compartments are another great addition to a backpack, she says, because you can distribute items in the bag to make it feel lighter. As your child gets older, it's better to have more compartments and pockets because they will most likely have a heavier load.

Also, Hanson says to make sure to use the pockets to your advantage—put the most needed items (pencils, pens, etc.) in the most easily accessible places.



Lunch Bag:

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Like the backpack, the lunch bag should be appropriate for the child's age. Younger children can have simpler bags—something that is small and insulated. An insulated lunch bag and ice packs will help keep your kid's lunch cool because your child won't have access to a fridge. Another great item for lunch is sandwich and snack containers, Hanson says. Not only does this reduce the amount of plastic baggies you're using but it also can help identify whose lunch is whose by assigning each child their own color. Hanson also suggests having a scheduled lunch menu so you and your kids always know what is in store for the next day.



Locker:

For your older children who have their own locker, maximizing space is the most important thing. Hanson says the best item for a locker is a shelf divider which will prevent book from smashing your child's lunch and keep all of their books from tumbling out. Another great thing about a locker, Hanson says, is that you can have fun with it. She suggests personalizing it with fun items such as a locker rug, wallpaper or even a chandelier.

Back to School Items:



Post-it Clutch Pop-up Note Dispenser

A fun, chic item for your kid that is also practical. \$14.99. Available wherever you shop for back to school.



Colorful Klip-It Lunch Cube

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Pack all your child needs for lunch in one colorful, environmentally-friendly container. \$4.99. www.containerstore.com.



Post-it Compact Note Dispenser

This compact will keep all your child's Post-It Notes in great condition while also giving them a reason to feel fancy. \$8.99. Available wherever you shop for back to school.



Melody Locker Wallpaper

Let your child turn their drab locker into their own colorful oasis with this pattern-filled wallpaper. \$8.99. www.containerstore.com.

No matter what age your child is, getting organized for the new school year will help you get started on the right foot.