



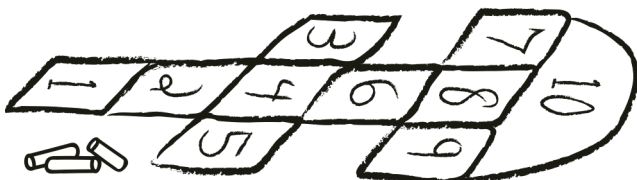
Activity Backpack

What is it?

Pack a summer of fun into a child-size backpack, and have it ready to take to the beach, park, or just to use at home. When children start school, they'll need to know how to handle and manage their backpacks, so help them get comfortable ahead of time with these backpack activity ideas.

Tips and Activities

- Build a *Summer Activity Backpack*; include lots of summer-based play and learning toys such as a beach pail and shovel, sidewalk chalk, play-sized garden tool set, hat and sunglasses, and summer-themed or water-proof books.
- Create a *What's in Your Backpack?* school readiness activity, giving your child an opportunity to get familiar with managing their backpack on their own. Figure out together what they would like to bring or might need at preschool or school, then have them gather the items and pack them. These can include: small plastic food storage containers, real or play lunch foods, a clean set of clothes, or a favorite book or toy.
- Make up your own *Pack and Go Backpack* for any occasion, whether it's a drive in the car, trip to the grocery store or visit with a friend. You and your child can brainstorm what would be useful and fun to have along—coloring books and crayons for a long car ride, or a pretend shopping list with stickers to check off items at the grocery store.



Read All About It

- Birth – 3 years: *I Can Do It Too* by Karen Baicker
Birth – 3 years: *Spot Goes to School* by Eric Hill
3 – 5 years: *My Backpack* by Eve Bunting
3 – 5 years: *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!*
¡Prepárate, kindergarten! ¡Allá voy! by Nancy Carlson
5 – 7 years: *Freckleface Strawberry: Backpacks!* by Julianne Moore
5 – 7 years: *If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff

More Information

- Discounted backpacks: <http://www.fbmarketplace.org/backpacks>
- Boston Children's Museum website: www.school-readiness.org

Community Connections

Visit your local libraries, museums, zoos, parks and other community and cultural organizations for new things to see, learn and discover!

- Many locations offer free or discounted admission. Visit their websites for more information.
- *Free Fun Fridays* offer free admission to cultural venues across Massachusetts. For more information, go to: <http://www.highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-Fridays>



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