

What Parents Can Do for Kids/Schools

- When your kids go back to school, rather than going out and buying a whole new set of school supplies, try to use what is left over from the previous year
- If you do have to purchase new school supplies for your kids, try to find green alternatives, e.g. notebooks made with recycled paper or FSC certified pencils
- With purchasing school supplies comes the inevitable need to buy new clothes; try to reuse from the year before
- Alternatively, if you do need to buy new clothing, try thrift shops, consignment shops or even that old standby: the garage sale
- While somewhat rare, you can buy eco-friendly clothing for your children, though you will have to do some online searching
- If possible, have your children walk or bike to school
- If you have safety concerns, try to arrange a group of your neighborhood children to walk or bike
- Given that many schools do not have green approaches to lunch, e.g. disposable tableware, consider packing a lunch for your kids; this also has the added bonus of allowing you to have more control of your child's eating habits
- Speaking of packing lunches, you will want to pick out a reusable lunch box
- Wherever possible, try to buy locally and organically grown food; avoiding preservatives is both healthy for the environment and for your kid
- Of course, if you are feeling really ambitious, you can try to ensure that your local school is attempting to go green; some quick research can inform you of what initiatives are in place to accomplish this
- If there are initiatives already in place, consider volunteering your time and energy to help
- If there are no initiatives in place, consider beginning your own by first asking how much input you might have as a parent/concerned citizen
- As a direct correlation with the previous point, you can demonstrate to your local school how other schools have gone green and the subsequent benefits of doing so
- Insure that you have a clear goal in mind; this is not only important for the administration, but for the students
- Try to encourage school-wide events where environmentally-friendly initiatives are encouraged, e.g. competitions to see who creates the least amount of waste, or, perhaps, a recycling program of some sort
- Another way to get the attention of school officials is to attempt to obtain funding from outside sources
- Approaching the administration is one thing you can do, but why not ask the parents of other children to become involved? After all, the more hands the better.
- Teaming up with local eco-friendly groups and businesses is not a bad idea either