

School supplies for distance learning

Families are scrambling to adjust to a new normal where kids are distance learning. For some, it's especially challenging because they don't have access to school supplies and other necessities for their children. Your family or church can provide care packages filled with essential and entertaining items to support your community in the chaos.

***Note:** If you do not already have a relationship with families in need or educators through your church, call your local school or board of education to find out how you can help. Offer the school supplies care packages as a place to start.*

Here's a list of items you could include:

School items

- Notebooks
- Folders
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Pens (blue and black)
- Crayons
- Ruler
- Glue sticks
- Erasers
- Scissors

Food items

(Avoid peanuts and peanut butter)

- Breakfast items (instant oatmeal, grits, cereal bars)
- Protein snacks (jerky sticks, trail mix, protein bars)
- Easy meals (ravioli, tuna, soup, mac & cheese, Ramen)
- Packaged snacks (crackers, cookies, fruit cups)

Bonus items

- Cards of encouragement
- Activities for free time (card games, coloring books, word searches, mazes, story books)
- Bible/New Testament
- **Family devotional**

Things to keep in mind...

- Consider the age of the students to whom your bags will be distributed when selecting bonus activities.
- Use pre-packed food items instead of homemade treats as many school systems will not accept homemade food.

Other ideas...

- Many distance-learning assignments require parents to print out worksheets, but some families may not have access to a printer or be able to afford to have these assignments printed at a copy shop. Offer to print these packets for families on your church's printer or make an arrangement with a copy shop to cover the cost of printing for particular families.
- Ask families in your church or neighborhood if they need assistance with distance learning. Pair church members with students to tutor them over video chats.