Here is a list of important “To Do’s” to ensure your child’s transition back to school- or to school for the first time- is as stress-free as it is exciting...

**What to wear, bring, and eat...**

- Does the school have a dress code? Are there certain things students cannot wear (don’t forget to inquire about shoes too)?

- Will my child need a change of clothes for bathroom accidents, PE, art class, etc.?

- Will my child’s backpack hold all of his/her supplies and materials? Will it be comfortable to wear even when full/heavy? Will you talk with your child about being responsible in carrying only necessary materials to and from school?

- Where will my child eat lunch? Do they offer a hot lunch option or will we pack a cold lunch? How much will hot lunch cost per day? Will there be a weekly/monthly menu to choose from...when will I get that? Where will the cold lunch be stored...will I need ice packs?

- Will snacks be served at any time? Will they be provided by the school or do we bring our own snacks? What is the policy for birthdays and other celebrations...does school pass out food or snacks brought in from outside? Is there a “healthy choices” policy on what we may or may not pack/send to school?

- Are all school supplies purchased? Have all supplies been labeled with my child’s name and classroom (if necessary)?

**Medical/Allergy Alerts**
-Has my child received all necessary immunizations? Have I checked on ensuring my child is in a classroom with peers who’ve been immunized (this is specifically for medically fragile children)?

-Have I filled out all necessary forms, emergency contacts, emergency/health care plans (if necessary)?

-Do the school nurse, office administrators, and teachers know about any medical conditions...particularly allergies, asthma, diabetes, and any other conditions that might need to be managed throughout the school day?

-Have I made arrangements and provided appropriate documentation for the school nurse to administer medications or complete any/all medical care that might be needed during the school day?

-Do the classroom teachers understand how these conditions and/or related medications might impact my child’s learning and ability to focus in the classroom?

-Have I checked that there is a plan in place to share all necessary information with any teachers, substitute teachers, coaches, volunteers, etc. that should take over leading the classroom while my child is present?

**Transportation and Safety**

-Do I know when the school day starts and ends?

-Do I have a reliable plan for how my child will get to and from school, on-time, each day?

-If they are riding the bus, do I know the bus route and the approximate time to expect them to be picked-up and dropped-off? Do I have the bus companies contact information? Will the bus company/bus drivers have access to my child’s medical alerts and emergency contact information?

-Do I know where the school’s designated pick-up and drop-off locations will be?

-Have I checked if there be someone directing traffic in the parking lot or at crosswalks outside of the school? I have gone over a safe, direct walking route with my child (stressing how to look both ways before crossing streets and never accepting a ride from someone they do not know)?

-I have checked the policies for riding a bike to school? Do I know where a bike could be locked up safely on the school grounds?