

# 5 Budget Friendly Back to School Ideas

This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club – [www.cheapskates.com.au](http://www.cheapskates.com.au)

## Not Just the Same Old Book Cover

**Approximate \$ Savings:** \$4 each

If you can't find the book cover your child is after then use old or buy new wrapping paper that your child likes. It could just be pretty flower paper. Then wrap with clear contact. It would be something different for them and not just the same standard book covers as everyone else. - Contributed by Tina, Daisy Hill

## Buy School Supplies in Threes

**Approximate \$ Savings:** \$50 per year

One strategy I use when buying back to school stationery and supplies is to always buy in threes. When I find a great deal on basic supplies like paper, pencils, textas, binders, etc, I stock up with at least three of each item. The kids are well-stocked for the first day of school, and we can restock at least twice later in the school year without having to pay regular retail prices. - Contributed by Liz, Pakenham

## Include Back to School as a Budget Category

We added "back to school" to our budget as a separate category and deposit money into that category each pay period, just as we do for the school fees, rates, insurances and other once a year expenses. Now when January comes around and the back to school sales are on I can comfortably and happily shop for what our four children need, knowing that the money is there and I don't have to run another category into the red. This really takes the pressure off back to school shopping, especially as it comes right on the heels of Christmas and holidays. - Contributed by Peter, Doncaster East



## Keeping the Records Straight

Once a child starts school there is so much documentation you need to keep track of. Everything from enrolment forms and permission slips to immunization records (I always keep a copy in their blue book too) to reports, awards, photos and important newsletters need to be kept and stored. I bought a plastic 26 pocket expanding file for each of my children and now keep all their school records in their file. They have a different colour each (blue, green and pink) and the sections are labelled from Prep through Year 12, Awards, Certificates, Photos, Keepsakes, Newsletters, Reports and Receipts. Now I can just go to the file and find what I need. Once they have finished school and left home they will have all their school documentation in the one easy to find place. No more lost paperwork. – Contributed by Debbie, Croydon South



## Easy Bag Labels for Preppies

Help your preppie find his or her school bag easily with a unique bag tag. I bought an oval shaped plaque from a craft shop and then painted and decorated it to suit my daughter's personality. My husband drilled a hole in one end and I attached it to her school bag with a small chain. Now her bag stands out from all the others under the verandah in the mornings and she can find it quickly and easily. – Contributed by Donna, Berkley Vale

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