

ALL ITEMS AND CLOTHES SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH CHILD'S NAME OR SYMBOL & FREE OF CHARACTERS FROM POPULAR SHOWS, MOVIES AND GAMES

School "Supplies" Checklist

Here is a list of gear needed for all ERS children EVERYDAY:

- Nap Mats
- Backpack with chest strap & whistle
- Water Bottle with sport cap
- Lunch box and utensils
- Properly fitting cloth or surgical masks
- Shoes: Closed toed, quick drying, water-friendly and easy for your child to manage fairly independently such as: [Kids Bestsellers \(nativeshoes.com\)](http://KidsBestsellers.nativeshoes.com) or [Anker Gray/Blue | See Kai Run](http://AnkerGrayBlue.com)
- Chlorine/Character free pull-ups (for potty learners)
- Wet bag (OR large slider Ziploc)
- Dry bag (OR large slider Ziploc) filled with AT LEAST one complete change of clothes (2 changes required for Acorns)
 - Socks (2-3 pair)
 - Shirt
 - Pants
 - Underwear (2-3 pair)
- Appropriate "outer" clothing and footwear for the season (in addition to the above)

Fall

Sunhat
Fleece jacket
Lightweight gloves
Raincoat and rain pants
OR Rainsuit (Acorns)
Rain boots

Winter

Snow pants
Snow hat
Winter coat
Snow boots or well-lined, warm rain boots
Waterproof gloves or mittens
Knit gloves
Rain coat (worn over winter coat on wet days)
Water resistant winter coat
Extra layers of clothing, long underwear, double socks, etc...

Spring

Raincoat OR Rainsuit
Rain pants (OPTIONAL)
Rain boots
Sunhat
Lightweight gloves
Fleece jacket

Summer

Sunhat
Raincoat
Rain boots
Optional: SPF protective clothing for children with fair/sensitive skin



Details & Helpful Hints about gear

Below are details about required gear. Specific products listed are suggestions. Other products you find that fulfill the requirements and function for the gear are perfectly acceptable. If you have questions or need more recommendations, please don't hesitate to ask.

Nap Mats

- Families provide a rest mat that rolls up.
- The mats are stored at school during the week and are taken home for laundering on the last day your child attends each week or midweek if he or she had an accident during rest time.
- There are lots of options online, such as [this one](#). Rest mats should be free of characters and other distracting theme images. There are many options with a simple patterned fabric, or nature-related patterns.
- Avoid flannel as it attracts dust and other debris.
- Measure your child's height to make sure the mat will be a comfortable size.



Backpacks

- Please make packing and unpacking your child's backpack an important part of your child's daily routine; children should be in charge of their pack.
- Backpacks need to be high quality packs intended for day hikes.
 - They must have chest and hip belts, with an external water bottle pocket, and a whistle.
 - They must be properly sized for your child. Measure the length of your child's back. This measurement should be within 1 inch of the length of the backpack you choose.



- For the 18 month-5 year olds there is more flexibility with exact sizing.
- While there are other appropriate brands, many of our families use REI packs (details below). They come in 2 sizes that will fit most ERS children and fulfill all of our pack requirements.
 - Very petite children may need to look for another product.
 - Factor in your best guess about how your child will grow, when trying to choose the best size so they can use the pack for several years.
 - Also, please remember NO MEDIA CHARACTERS on any packs.
- Backpacks will come to school and go home every day with a fresh change of clothes (or 2) each day.
- Specifics on the REI backpacks
 - We recommend [this one](#) for young children, Dimensions: 13 x 9 x 5 inches.

Water Bottles

- Solid color, stainless steel water bottles are required (Klean Kanteen type)
- Please mark the water bottle with your child's name.
 - All Acorn and PreK must have a 12 oz bottle with a sports top.
 - Children K and up should have a 12 oz or larger bottle with a sports top.
- Water bottles will go home and be refilled every day.
- Parents/children are in charge of regular washing of Kanteens.
- Examples online:
 - Kanteen:
 - [Small with Sports Top](#)
 - [Large with Sports Top](#)



Wet Dry Packs

- For this you can use a product like this [wet/dry bag](#).
- Or you can use two one-gallon Ziploc Slider Storage Bags labeled with your child's name and one marked clean and one marked wet/dirty. (We don't recommend the pinch-to-close bags since they are harder for children to seal.)

Sun Hats

- Children are required daily from April-October to wear a wide brimmed sun hat that covers the neck (hats are worn all the time, even on cloudy days).
- Many of our families prefer [this hat](#), but there are other appropriate options.

Raincoat

- Please follow the guidelines below as closely as possible. The perfect raincoat is vital part of your child's comfort and safety.
- Pay close attention to the requirement for oversized fit.

- OPTIONAL for Acorns: [One-piece Rainsuit](#)
- For others: [rain jacket and pants like these](#)

THE PERFECT ERS RAINCOAT

Allows the child to work in torrential downpours and stay reasonable dry from the knees up.

- WATER BARRIER - Raincoat must be a raincoat and not a windbreaker. Windbreakers absorb water; raincoats act as a barrier.
- ZIPPER - Must have a working zipper closure.
- UNLINED - Thinner raincoats can be worn in all temps and over coats in cooler temperatures.
- OVERSIZED - Oversized raincoats allow for multiple layers and coverage of legs when rain pants are not present. (HINT: Buy an adult size or larger child's size!)
- A GOOD FIT
 - Hood comes well forward of forehead.
 - Sleeves cover fingers when arms are down; hands stay dry. Can be rolled, hemmed, or cut if too long.
 - Bottom of raincoat comes to AT LEAST the knees. Knee to ankle length best. Does not have cinched bottom.



Snow Pants

- Please provide quality bib or vest style snow pants. Children will wear them on a daily basis in the colder months, and they need to withstand our outdoor play.
- Make sure the fit your child comfortable and will not restrict their movement excessively. They also need to reach the top of your child's boots, even when sitting.
- Please waterproof the snow pants with a waterproofing product such as scotchgard.
- [This is one example](#)
- Shop at Sierra Trading Post, L.L. Bean, REI, and Campmor for other options.

Snow Boots

- Snow boots should be waterproof and insulated.
- They need to be big enough to accommodate thick socks, but not too large.
- [This is a great style](#) as the entire outside is rubberized.
- If not already waterproofed, please waterproof your child's boots.

Winter Coat

- Please provide a quality, insulated, waterproof winter coat. Please make sure the sleeves comfortably reach over your child's hand.
- If the coat is not already waterproof, please waterproof it.
- There are many excellent options. [This is one that many families like.](#)

Winter Gloves and Mittens

- For Acorn aged children, please provide insulated mittens. Having a velcro opening and a "gauntlet" style allows for easy on and off, and for warm wrists.
- [This is one great option.](#)
- [This style](#) that is waterproof with a high wrist is also good for our preschoolers.
- If the mittens/gloves you purchase are not already waterproof, please waterproof them.
- Inevitably, mittens and gloves get wet, even waterproof ones. Packing two pairs of mittens or gloves is a great option to keep your child's hands warm and cozy.
- Mittens must be waterproof, insulated ski style; please NO knit or fleece

Potty Learning Children

- Pull-ups are required for all children who are still potty learning (Please do not bring any diapers). If your child wears pull-ups, please bring chlorine-free, character free pull-ups on the first day of attendance. We will notify your family if and when we need more.
- [This is an appropriate option.](#)

Lunch Accessories Summer Camp and During COVID-19 lunch service suspension

- As much as possible provide lunch kits and containers that your child can open independently
- If they have food that requires a spoon or fork, please provide the necessary utensils. Hint: it is easier for young children to feed themselves from a lower, wide-mouthed bowl than a tall/deep one.
- Here is a [lunch box](#) that many of our summer camp families like
- This blog post has some inspiration for [healthy packed lunches](#)

When making purchases, please consider making Eastern Ridge School your donation charity of choice at these selected sites and stores:

Amazon: *(please note that you must ALWAYS start on www.smile.amazon.com when making purchases to have a percentage of your purchase donated to ERS)*

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3846787>

Mighty Nest: <http://schools.mightynest.com/great-falls/eastern-ridge-school?mnr=WUwDk4>