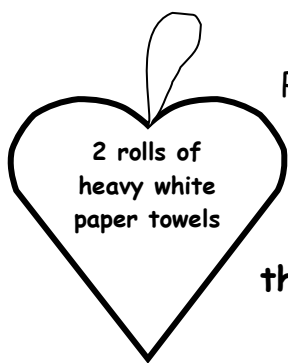


The Kindergarten Giving Tree: Let Families Know What Your Literacy Wishes and Needs Are!

Several times a year, our kindergarten teachers display a large "Giving Tree" on the bulletin board outside of their classroom using apples or hearts. Each apple or heart is attached with removable tape and added to the tree, requesting a specific item needed in kindergarten - some small items and some large. A topiary plant with requests tied on hearts also works well. We make it easy for parents by being very specific. The requests might include:

- set of colored Sharpie permanent marking pens
- *Sing, Sign, Spell, & Read!* CD and *I Can Read* pages (nellieedge.com)
- art print of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*
- set of 30 blank board books (*Chunky Bare Books* at barebooks.com #3602)
- set of Beron Prisma colored pencils
- bird nests
- white heavy paper towels
- Ziploc bags, large and small
- glitter pens in assorted colors
- business-sized plain white envelopes of 100 or more
- *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* by Nellie Edge (Amazon.com)
- *Happy Pig Day* by Mo Willems (Amazon.com)
- 30 toilet paper rolls
- Scotch™ Thermal Laminator (Amazon.com TP 5852-10)
- several extra laminating pouches (Amazon.com TP3854-50)
- set of 60 large folded books (we supply the paper)
- set of 60 covers and inside pages for rubber band books (we supply the paper)
- Elephant and Piggie Soft Toys from yottoy.com (#506)



Parents can see the tree next to the kindergarten door—and at any time if they want to give a special gift—they can give what is most needed and appreciated. Parents remove the apple or heart to fulfill the wish. **Most parents, and even grandparents, are happy to donate items to help their child's wonderful kindergarten program.**

Other Practical Display Ideas

- Attach your wishes to chocolate kisses in a wooden bowl: *"Take a kiss and grant a wish."*
- Place sticky notes with wishes around the door at Open House. How easy is that?



How do you invite families to donate needed resources?