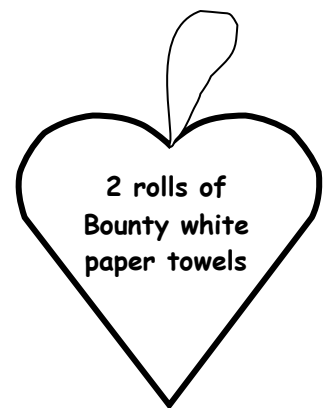


# The Kindergarten Giving Tree: Let Families Know What Your Literacy Wishes and Needs Are!

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
- long-handled stapler
- art print of Monet's Water Lilies
- set of 30 blank board books (Chunky Bare Books at [barebooks.com](http://barebooks.com) #3602)
- set of Beron Prisma colored pencils
- bird nests
- white Bounty 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](http://amazon.com))
- *Happy Pig Day* by Mo Willems (Amazon)
- 30 toilet paper rolls
- Scotch™ Thermal Laminator ([amazon.com](http://amazon.com) TP 5852-10)
- several extra laminating pouches ([amazon.com](http://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](http://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?**

Taken from *Writing-to-Read Accelerates Literacy*, manuscript in process, by Nellie Edge, 2012.