Daycare & Preschool Packing Checklist

WHAT TO PACK & LABEL

Start with your center's supply list, then use this to make sure you cover the basics.

1 Bottles, cups, and feeding supplies

WHAT TO PACK

- [ ] Breast milk or formula bottles, if needed
- [ ] Sippy cup or water bottle, if age-appropriate
- [ ] Lunch box and food containers, if meals aren't provided
- [ ] Snacks, if required
- [ ] Bibs or burp cloths for younger children
- [ ] Feeding utensils, if needed

WHAT TO LABEL

- [ ] Bottles & lids
- [ ] Cups
- [ ] Lunch boxes
- [ ] Ice packs
- [ ] Reusable food containers
- [ ] Utensils

2 Extra clothes and shoes

WHAT TO PACK

- [ ] 2 complete changes of clothes
- [ ] Extra underwear, if age-appropriate
- [ ] Socks
- [ ] Weather-appropriate jacket or sweater
- [ ] Extra shoes, if requested
- [ ] Hat or other seasonal gear

WHAT TO LABEL

- [ ] Shirts
- [ ] Pants
- [ ] Socks
- [ ] Jackets and/or sweaters
- [ ] Shoes
- [ ] Hats

3 Diapers, wipes, and personal care

WHAT TO PACK

- [ ] Diapers or training pants
- [ ] Wipes
- [ ] Diaper cream, if needed and permitted
- [ ] Sunscreen, if required and permitted
- [ ] Any approved personal care supplies

WHAT TO LABEL

- [ ] Diaper packages
- [ ] Wipes
- [ ] Creams
- [ ] Sunscreen
- [ ] Other personal care products

4 Nap and comfort items

WHAT TO PACK (IF PERMITTED)

- [ ] Crib sheet or nap mat
- [ ] Small blanket for children old enough to use one safely
- [ ] Approved comfort item
- [ ] Pacifier, if used and permitted
- [ ] Storage bag for bedding

WHAT TO LABEL

- [ ] Bedding
- [ ] Nap mats
- [ ] Storage bags
- [ ] Approved comfort items

5 Backpack and daily essentials

WHAT TO PACK

- [ ] Backpack or daycare bag
- [ ] Required classroom supplies
- [ ] Weather-appropriate outdoor gear
- [ ] Any center-requested forms or supplies

WHAT TO LABEL

- [ ] Backpacks
- [ ] Jackets
- [ ] Reusable accessories

Every childcare center has its own requirements. Check your center's policies before you buy or pack.

Tips for each category

Bottles, cups, and feeding supplies	Many daycare centers ask parents to label bottles with the date, contents, and amount, and some require it, so check with yours.
Extra clothes and shoes	Keep a labeled, resealable bag in the backpack for wet or dirty clothes. Check backup outfits when the weather or clothing size changes.
Diapers, wipes, and personal care	Ask about your center's policy on diaper creams, sunscreen, and other topicals. Many programs require written permission or specific labeling.
Nap and comfort items	For pacifiers and chewed items, skip stickers that could detach and become a choking hazard. Label a storage case instead, when appropriate.
Backpack and daily essentials	Label the inside of backpacks and jackets when possible, rather than showing your child's full name on the outside.

IMPORTANT: SAFE SLEEP

For babies under 12 months, follow safe-sleep guidance. Keep loose blankets, pillows, and stuffed toys out of infant sleep spaces. Always confirm which items your childcare provider allows.

Why label?

Prevents mix-ups
Clearly marked items help caregivers identify each child's belongings.

Eases transitions
Labels help teachers organize and return items between classrooms and at pickup.

Saves money
Water bottles, jackets, and lunch containers add up. Labels help lost items find their way home.

Builds independence
Preschoolers can practice finding their own things with familiar visual labels.

Choose and apply labels

LOOK FOR	BEST FOR
Waterproof	Bottles, cups, lunch containers
Dishwasher-safe	Items that need frequent cleaning
Laundry-safe	Clothing and jackets
Different sizes	Small containers to backpacks
Personalized colors or designs	Symbols young children can recognize

HOW TO APPLY

- Apply to clean, dry surfaces and follow the product instructions.
- Name Bubbles recommends letting labels set for 24 hours before washing.
- Put clothing labels on care tags or printed brand stamps, not directly on fabric, unless the label is made for that.
- Adults apply labels and check them for wear or lifting. Avoid spots children may pick at or chew.

Easier daycare mornings

NIGHT BEFORE
Pack the night before
Refill diapers and wipes, check backup clothes, and get lunch containers ready.

BY THE DOOR
Make a daycare spot
Keep backpacks, shoes, and jackets in one place near the door.

ONCE A WEEK
Check supplies
Replace missing clothing, restock personal care items, and make sure labels are still attached.

EVERY DAY
Involve your child
Even toddlers can put their water bottle in the backpack or spot their own jacket.

The goal isn't a perfectly packed backpack every single day. It's a routine that works for your family.

A TINYHOOD PARTNER WE LOVE

Name Bubbles

Waterproof, dishwasher-safe, and laundry-safe personalized labels, plus daycare-specific label packs in different sizes, including options for clothing and shoes.

Explore Name Bubbles' Daycare Labels Pack

namebubbles.com

Save **15% with code PACKIT15**