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?