



Invitation to Independence Rites of Passage Experience

Through the 3 kickstarters you've worked through the different areas of independence that are developmentally appropriate for your preschool aged child; independence at home, with friends, and personal independence (all those things he/she will have to do for himself/herself at school). Realize every child develops differently. Some children will do better socially than organizationally, therefore his/her independence with friendship will come more naturally than his/her personal independence.

We want to celebrate the independence of your preschooler, letting him/her know she is ready for kindergarten with a gift he/she can use at school. This item could be a new backpack, lunchbox, sleep mat, etc. It would be great to have this item personalized and one that can be kept for your child's life. How cool to send them away to college with their first backpack! Most elementary schools hold an open house, so it'd be great to give your child their personalized item on Open House night.

Another way to make this moment special is to have family and friends text a video message to your child. You can collect all these on your phone and share them with your child when

you present them with their school gift. The video message can include a kindergarten memory from that person or encouragement to your child as they get ready to enter kindergarten.

You can send your friends and family an email/text saying, *"To honor _____ as he/she gets ready for kindergarten will you take a minute to send him/her a video of you telling a story from your kindergarten year OR a video encouraging him/her as he/she gets ready for kindergarten?"* If these videos are texted to you, you can show them to your child from your phone. If emailed, you can put them all together in a file on your computer to show your child. These videos will provide great encouragement as your child gets ready for this journey toward independence.

You can rest well knowing you've done all you can to assure your child's success through this invitation to independence.