

The Most Important Things You Bring to School

A Celebration of the Gifts
That Don't Fit in a Backpack

Written by Dr. Nakeyau Patterson



Copyright © 2026 Dr. Nakeyau Patterson
All rights reserved.

Published by Rising Press.
ISBN: 979-8-951901-15-6

No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any
form or by any means without prior written permission
from the publisher, except for brief quotations used
in reviews or educational discussion.



Every morning,
backpacks bounce,
lunchboxes swing,
and children hurry,
shuffle,
roll,
and skip
through the school doors.





And there you are.

Backpacks may carry
pencils and papers,
folders and books,
a water bottle,
an art project,
and sometimes a crumpled note
that was supposed to be signed.



But the most important things
you bring to school
cannot be packed at all.



You bring questions:
small ones that tickle,
big ones that stretch,
and brave ones
no one has shared before.
A question can open
a door to discovery.

**Ask in the way
that works for you.**







You bring ideas
that arrive in pictures,
patterns,
numbers,
stories,
sounds,
or sudden sparks.
Your mind may find a path
no one else thought to try.
**That path can lead
somewhere new.**



Keep the conversation going

What is something you bring to school
that cannot fit in a backpack?

Invite children to say it, sign it, draw it, write it,
or share in a way that works for them.

The Most Important Things You Bring to School

By Dr. Nakeyau Patterson

[Explore the book and formats](#)

RootEDEquity.org

Selected pages from the book. This is a reading sample, not the full book.
Book text and illustrations are reproduced from the original interior.