

DIY back to School

A love note from Mom
or Dad makes the school
day sweeter!

Chalkboard Messages

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When I was little, one of my favorite parts of the school day was reading the notes my mom would place in my lunchbox.

Whether I was having a good day, or a not-so-good day, it felt nice to see a message from my mom. Of course, this was one of those parental moments that I didn't learn to appreciate until I grew up. That being said, it's something I will always cherish, so clearly her simple message of love came through loud and clear!

Those memories inspired me to find a way for you to leave messages for your kids throughout the school day. I love the idea of using chalkboard paint for many reasons; once the project is complete it's simple, inexpensive, and eco-friendly – since you're saving by not using paper! Whether you're sending them to school with a note on their bag, or giving them a simple 'hello' during lunch, kids will adore and appreciate the messages you leave them with (even if they don't realize it until their late 20s!).

The instructions are fairly self-explanatory; find your inner Picasso and paint away! Below are the supplies I recommend using, and a few tips to simplify the project.

Supplies needed:

- Chalkboard paint
- Foam/sponge brush
- Chalk
- Backpack, lunchbox, or any other item your little one carries throughout the day – check Goodwill for any of these supplies

Tips for painting!

1. If you're painting a lunchbox, you can either paint the inside of the lid, or the outside – whichever you prefer! If you're painting the inside, be sure to check the label of your paint to make sure it's food-safe.
2. If you're painting a backpack, go for an area on the bag that won't brush up against your children's clothing; you don't want that message erased before they get the chance to read it!
3. If you'd like to add another special touch to your project, apply the chalkboard paint over a stencil (cookie-cutters work too!) of your children's favorite animal or character.
4. Apply at least two layers of the chalkboard paint, allowing the paint to thoroughly dry in between applications. This ensures the paint will dry in perfect chalkboard form!

