

Auction item ideas to get your creative juices flowing...

- 1. Tutoring or lessons given by your child*
- 2. Sports tickets*
- 3. Sports memorabilia*
- 4. Tickets for local cultural events*
- 5. Vacation packages with few restrictions or strings*
- 6. Gift certificates for dinner at a nice restaurant*
- 7. Wine, Beer, Cider, or other libations*
- 8. Golf*
- 9. High-end or handmade jewelry*
- 10. All Kinds of Sports or Get Up and Move: anything sports—balls, games, water bottles, sportswear*
- 11. All Scream for Ice Cream: fixings for sundaes, cones, toppings, gift certificates*
- 12. Backyard Chef or Grill Out: barbecue sauces, grill accessories, Omaha Steak gift certificates*
- 13. Backyard Fun: kids beach chair, pail, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, sand castle tools*
- 14. Beach Party: towels, toys, umbrella, folding chair, sunscreen, sunglasses*
- 15. Birthday Party in a Basket or Where's the Party: cake pan, cake mixes, balloons, piñata, plates, napkins, party favors*
- 16. Bookworm Bonanza or The Bookstore: books, bookmarks, book light, nameplates*
- 17. Building Blocks: Lego, Lincoln Logs, Magnet Tiles*
- 18. Bundle Of Joy: baby shower gifts for a parent-to-be*
- 19. Candle Basket: assorted candles, candle holders, snuffer, fancy matches*
- 20. Car Wash: bucket, sponges, chamois, paper towels, Armor All, Turtle Wax, air fresheners*
- 21. Chef's Delight: cookbooks, kitchen gadgets, bowls, spices, oils, cutting board*
- 22. Coffee Break: mugs, assorted coffees, chocolate-covered spoons, biscotti*
- 23. Cookie Monster: cookie pans, dough, recipes, add-ins, decorations*
- 24. Date Night: dinner, tickets to concert or ballet, baby-sitting service*
- 25. Day at the Pool: floats, sunscreen, flip-flops, toys, towels*
- 26. Disney Mania: videos, clothing, towels, school supplies, anything else Disney*
- 27. Do-It-Yourself: tool belt, instruction books, painting supplies, store gift card*
- 28. Family Fun Nights: movie night, game night, etc.*
- 29. Family Night Out: certificate for a four-person dinner, movie tickets*
- 30. Fiesta Fiesta: Mexican jumping beans, fancy salsa and chips, recipe book*
- 31. Fisherman's Cove: rod and reels, fishing line, tackle and bait, gift certificate*
- 32. Garden of Eden: seeds, soil, tools, garden artwork, accessories, plants*
- 33. Self-Care: chicken soup, robe, crossword puzzles, tea, pillow, eye mask*
- 34. Gift Wrap: assorted papers, ribbons and bows, notecards, fancy scissors, tape*
- 35. Hair Care: hot-oil treatment, hair towel, brush, hair clips and bands, blow-dryer*
- 36. House Beautiful: cleaning supplies, dust cloths and polish, cleaning service*
- 37. Italian Feast: pasta machine, fancy olive oils, spaghetti fork*
- 38. It's a Girl or It's a Boy: new-baby supplies*
- 39. Just What the Dr. Ordered: Dr. Seuss books, pajamas, towels, other logo items*
- 40. Kitchen Gadgets: colander, slotted and serving spoons, measuring cups, pot holders, tongs, cutting board*
- 41. Life's Simple Pleasures: fluffy robe, scented candles, bath and body products, manicure/pedicure supplies or certificate, eye pillow, facial mask*
- 42. Love for Learning: reference books, reading light, flashcards, school supplies*
- 43. Manicure/Pedicure: nail clippers, nail file, emery boards, polish remover, cotton balls, cuticle remover, orange stick, hand lotion, assorted nail polishes*
- 44. Men's Night Out: small TV, poker chips, cards, cigars, snack foods*
- 45. New Home: tool kit, picture-hanging supplies, address numbers, stud finder*
- 46. Pasta Mania: colander, cheese grater, fancy pasta, sauces, and olive oils*
- 47. Petite Picasso: arts and crafts supplies*
- 48. Photo Supplies: certificate for portrait session, picture frames, albums*
- 49. Soccer Fun: ball, portable goal net, jersey/shorts, game tickets*
- 50. Something's Fishy: mini tank, food, decorations, gift certificate for fish*
- 51. Spirited Exchange: various wines, wine log, tasting book (or beer, or cider, etc.)*
- 52. Stationery Basket: stamps, journal, notecards, gel pens/markers, envelopes*
- 53. Tea Break: mugs, assorted loose and bag teas, infuser, honey, cookies*
- 54. Teacher's Pet: personal pampering items, additional school supplies, books*
- 55. Tee Time: golf-club covers, certificate for lessons or course time, tees*

- 56. *Toy of the Moment: hottest toy of the time and accessories*
- 57. *Travel: games, snack items, DVD player and discs, books on tape*
- 58. *Writer's Workshop: pens/pencils, lap-desk, dictionary, journal*

25 Basic Theme Ideas for Auction Lots and Baskets:

1. *Automobile care*
2. *Baking gadgets*
3. *Camping supplies*
4. *Candy/chocolates*
5. *Computer software and servicing*
6. *Dress-up supplies*
7. *Exercise or Yoga*
8. *First-aid kit for a car or camper*
9. *Home children's library*
10. *Housewarming*
11. *Lottery tickets*
12. *Mother's Day or Father's Day*
13. *Formula One, NASCAR, Drag Racing, Motorcycle Racing*
14. *Patriotic/Fourth of July*
15. *Pet pampering or general pet supplies*
16. *Safety products for home or automobile*
17. *School supplies, including a backpack and supplies box*
18. *Science items*
19. *Scrapbooking*
20. *Sewing*
21. *Rain day*
22. *Spa night/ladies' night in or ladies' night out*
23. *Sports-specific baskets for baseball, basketball, football, etc.*
24. *Local sports tickets*
25. *Teddy bears*

7 Things to Avoid

Artwork done by amateurs other than the school's own students

- *Collectibles with a narrow appeal (e.g., figurines, vases/decorative glassware, coins)*
- *Anything used, unless it's antique and obviously valuable*
- *Certificates for partial value (e.g., \$100 off a \$20,000 roofing job)*
- *Homemade items, unless they are of exceptional quality (we love quilts, wood work items, pottery)*
- *Anything with a lot of fine print and restrictions—it's too hard for your guests to digest the fine print during the auction*
- *Anything perceived to have a lot of fine print, even if it doesn't—be clear that there are no or few strings attached (e.g., for a weekend at a resort, people might assume there are strict, undesirable date restrictions even if there aren't)*

Commercial Donations

Tips for getting donations from businesses:

- *Visit in person*
- *Speak to the manager*
- *Have a letter to leave behind (at the front desk or online <http://www.childrenshouse.cc/resources/Auction-Bus-Letter-2024.pdf>)*
- *Offer to come back to pick up donated items*
- *Be specific about what you want*
- *Be creative—take anything, lots of something, clearance merchandise, etc.*
- *Ask for a sponsorship donation if not an auction-able item (to cover the cost of decorations, food, printing, desserts, music/DJ, etc.)*
- *Send a proper thank-you letter in a timely manner (the school will do this)*

Possible sources of auction items (and some donation examples):

1. *Amusement parks*
2. *Appliance stores*
3. *Automotive shops (oil change, detailing, tire rotation)*

4. Bakeries
5. Bed-and-breakfasts
6. Bookstores
7. Record stores
8. Caterers
10. College athletic associations (sports tickets, sportswear)
11. Cruise lines
12. Cultural venues such as museums, historical attractions, zoos, music arenas, theaters
13. Dance studios
14. Dentists (professional tooth whitening or electronic toothbrush)
15. Electricians (install a new fixture)
16. Florist shops
17. Framing stores (frame your child's artwork; donation of foam core scraps for displays)
18. Local franchises of food chains, gas stations, convenience stores
19. Furniture stores
20. Hall rentals (with few strings attached)
21. Local hardware stores (donation of items)
22. Heating and A/C service companies
23. Home services (handyman, furnace repair, carpet cleaners, yardwork)
24. Home-improvement centers
25. Home-based businesspeople (Pampered Chef, Avon, Discovery Toys, PartyLite)
26. Hotels and motels (special overnight stay)
27. Ice-cream shop
28. Landscaping companies (tree-trimming and other services)
29. Limousine services
30. Minor league sports teams
31. Optometrists (complete pair of prescription glasses)
32. Orthodontists (discount on services)
33. Personal chefs
34. Personal service providers (massage, nails, hair)
35. Pet shops (food, accessories, books)
36. Photo studios (family portrait sessions)
37. Plumbers (install a replacement faucet)
38. Private teachers (music lessons, art lessons, personal trainers, dance classes, yoga lessons)
39. Rental car companies
40. Local restaurants and bars
41. Ski, golf, rock-climbing, tennis, swim club passes
42. Summer camps (gift certificate for a child)
43. Tailors/seamstresses (alterations)
44. Veterinarians (pet teeth cleaning, boarding, nail clipping)
46. Videographers
47. Clothing Stores