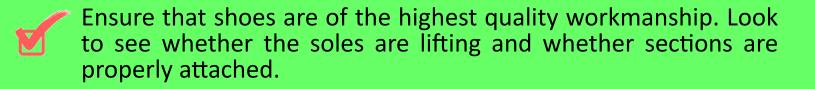
SHOPPING FOR SHOES AND BAGS



Avoid impulse shopping. Ensure that you get a receipt because this will be your proof of purchase should there be a need for redress or refund.



Parents, try not to be fooled into believing that "name brand" shoes are always of better quality than certain brands, which may not be as popular. Caregivers should insist on comfort and durability rather than style.

Make sure that shoes are in compliance with the school's guidelines before purchasing them, by checking what colours and styles are allowed.

Purchase shoes in which the child can grow. As such, ensure that they do not fit too closely. If two pairs are purchased to take advantage of a bargain or sale, ensure that the second pair is one or two sizes larger (depending on the age of the child).

The same consideration should be given when buying bags. Do not be tempted to go with how fancy the bag looks, rather than how practical and durable it is. As a parent, one thing you could do is to re-enforce the bag before the child begins using it by taking it to a shoemaker, dressmaker or tailor for extra stitches to be added at those areas which are normally the first to start pulling apart.