

Back-to-school week!

'A' for effort

Report for
carpool duty
in these easy,
breezy outfits

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The lunches are packed. The backpacks are zipped. The kids are looking back-to-school cool — and you are almost out the door on time.

But, wait. What if the teacher wants to greet you or a new parent wants to meet you? *Eek!* You throw on sunglasses, pull down the visor and hope no one will look through your car's windows to see you in your pajamas and with just-out-of-bed hair.

Harried parents everywhere jump through hoops to make the first days back to school easier for their family. And, if Mom has the option of coming home after she gets the kids through the school doors, the last person she's probably thinking about making presentable is herself.

Here are some quick ways to look pulled together for school drop-offs on busy mornings — easy but stylish pieces to throw on at dawn and change out of later, whether into a business suit or workout clothes.

Basic accessories for on-the-go moms

There are some great fashion trends this season, such as the tracksuit pant, which is both comfortable and slimming with its tuxedo-like stripe along the side.

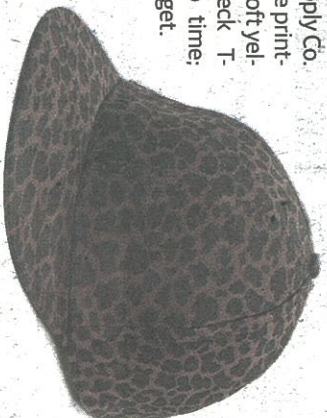
Another look is the infinity scarf — a scarf fashioned in a circle that casu-



Star-Telegram/Ross Halley

Looking to dress fast but appear put-together? Pull on our model Stacy's knit roll-waist maxi skirt (\$19.90, Windsor) in fall's best color: burgundy. Next tie on the ubiquitous chambray shirt (\$59.90, Express). Get hair ready fast by throwing on a double studded headband (\$19.50, Banana Republic). Last but not least, slide into a pair of snazzy sandals (Steve Madden, \$29.99, Marshalls). Daughter Madison is wearing a lace dress (\$44) and denim vest (\$34), both by GBGirls from Dillard's. Floral Backpack by Madden Girl (\$39.99) and flats by Lucky Brand (\$59), both from Macy's.

Pull on this cute Mossimo Supply Co. elastic-banded, flowing A-line printed skirt (\$19.99) with a soft yellow Mossimo V-neck T-shirt (\$9) in no time: both from Target.



Sport this elegant David & Young leopard print baseball cap (\$12.90, Windsor) and you will save yourself time and effort on bad hair mornings.

Back-to-school week!

Ideas and tips to ease the family's transition back to class.

Monday: Helping child: an overcome first-day jitters.

Tuesday: Spa treatments for back-to-school pampering.

Wednesday: Sandwich alternatives for kids' lunchboxes.

Thursday: Techy school supplies every teen will want.

Today: Easy, breezy outfits for harried moms who carpool in style.