

## The Star : Lighten schoolbags of older children, too

Written by Administrator

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THE Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) thanks the Education Ministry for acting to make children's schoolbags lighter. Beginning next year, children in Year One to Year Three will not need to use workbooks any longer. CAP hopes that this will be the start to more measures that will lighten schoolbag loads as well as make education truly enjoyable for children. As a follow-up, CAP calls on the ministry to also do away with workbooks for older children. Emphasis can be placed on using textbooks effectively so that additional books are not needed, or used only minimally. Thicker textbooks can be split into a few modules so that children need not carry one heavy book for each particular subject throughout the year. Lockers or even simple shelves can be provided so that books not required for use at home can be kept in school. Proper use of timetables will also help. Parents and teachers alike can train children to use these timetables effectively.

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