

Steps to successful kids chores

Included in this booklet you will find:

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Organizing your children's rooms



I see this problem all over forums, e-loops and even in my own home – how to organize children's rooms. There are a few things I have learnt and some things that I believe in deeply about children's rooms.

My starting point is that children these days have **too much stuff!** Next I believe that each child **should take care of their own room from a young age.** Last, their rooms should **display a sense of who they are.** What their loves, passions and interests are.

These are my tips on how we organize children's rooms. For tips on how to get your children motivated to clean their rooms please read through my children's chore pages.

Keeping their rooms clutter free

I used the Flylady's (<http://www.flylady.net>) principle and helped my children mentally break their rooms into "zones." In your home it will depend on the space and types of things your children have in their rooms. Examples of our zones are: Bed, cupboard, toy cupboard, bookshelf, windowsills and drawers.

Each zone is then allocated a day of the week to get special attention. They will daily clean their floor, and under their beds, but weekly focus on specific zone. Therefore each Monday will see our toy cupboard getting a thorough cleaning, each Tuesday the bookshelf etc. More help on this in the article "Zoning children's rooms."

When we work in that zone we will follow the principle of "**throw away – put away – give away.**"

Furniture to organize

I begin to build a reading library for each of our children as they pass the really beginner stages of reading. Each child has a bookshelf to keep their library. The books I choose for them are related to the interests. These books are theirs for life. The bookshelves are part of their weekly zone work as other clutter tends to creep onto the shelf.

We have a big plastic storage box on wheels that contains all the dressing up clothes. This lives in the bottom of the toy cupboard. It also forms part of the weekly zone work as often normal clothes end up there.

Clothes cupboards have one shelf per clothing group. All the jerseys on one shelf, all pants on another etc. At the end of each season we go through clothing and keep any that are fit for hand me downs to a younger sibling. These get washed and packed away. Others are set aside for the charity shops.

Clothes drawers are allocated in the same way, one type of clothing per drawer and are also cleaned out at the end of the season.

The flat surfaces of drawers, bookshelves and windowsills are always a struggle to keep clear. This is why they form part of the daily tidying routine. Porcelain figurines and other delicate items are displayed there.

As our daughter has a passion for drawing we have a drawing section for her. We purchased a drawing table for her. This is a fold away table which helps with correct posture. Her table is placed near a window for light. Her drawing materials are able to be kept underneath the lid of the table. Her pencils are kept in old tin cans that have been decorated.

Bedside tables become a prerequisite for older children. Here they can keep their journals, pen and bedtime reading material.

If your children do their schoolwork in their rooms then you will need to have a designated area. A desk then becomes a feature. You may need to place a bin nearby as well as a small shelf overhead to house their books. A pin board above the desk is a great help to pin up their weekly schedule among other things. The cleaning of this work area will become a necessary weekly chore as a clean and orderly desk area is imperative for concentration. You can print out a detailed list of how to go about this on my chore list page which your child can use.

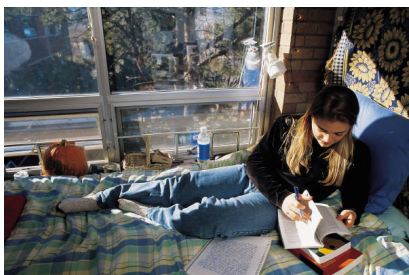
Sticking things on the walls?

At some stage in a child's life they will express a desire to have a poster or two (or in our case 10's) on the walls. This is an individual choice for your home. For us it is part of our children's individual expression of the things that they love. This can still be achieved neatly.

Long term posters can be laminated. Instruct your children in the correct removal of Prestik (sticky putty) so that they do not pull off the plaster when they remove other pictures.

Pin boards made from chipboard and covered in cheap colour coordinated fabric are great for pinning up photos, invitations and chore schedules.

Music, TV's and computers



A startling discovery happened when one day I suddenly realized that my own CD player was being used more by my children than myself. The following weekend we purchased a small reasonably priced CD player for our oldest daughter. We also purchased a small set of headphones so that she can listen to her music and not distract her younger sister when she is trying to sleep or play.

This CD player stands on top of one of the drawer cabinets with a rack to house the CD collection she has started. This keeps this area orderly.

We will not allow a TV in our children's rooms. We feel this will promote anti-social behaviour. TV watching is done as a family where we select what is appropriate.

Computers are for education and a small amount of recreation on weekends. Thus there is no need for one in our children's rooms. These remain in our school room. High school children who do need to do assignments and research on their

own, often work more in their rooms. This may necessitate a computer in their room. May I suggest if this is the case in your home you invest in a filter of sorts to protect your young adult from the many unsavoury things on the internet and limit computer exposure time?

Containers for toys

Whether you have boys or girls there will always be a need for containers for children's toys which break into small bits. Examples are Lego, Meccano, Polly Pockets etc.

Some cheap options for organizing these items are the following:

Large empty, clean ice cream containers. You can write the name of the toy that belongs on the side of the container in a permanent marker. For non readers, cut out a picture from the box the toys came in and stick it on the side.

Many grocery stores have specials where you can **buy a selection of plastic containers of different sizes** for a reasonable price. Try and choose ones that are transparent at the bottom. This helps to identify which toys belong in which box.

While we have a toy trunk I must say that it is one item of furniture which has the ability to get out of hand the quickest. It is so easy to just lift the lid and turf any loose items on the floor inside it. It then is a big mission to tidy. The toy trunk has thus become a Zone on its own for our sons to sort through once a week, while I wait for the penny to drop that it's much easier to just put the loose items in the right place the first time!

Lastly, if you're the thought of needing to organize your children's rooms send shivers up your spine because their rooms are out of control begin with a three day blitz.

Performing a 3 day blitz



The three day blitz is best left for holidays. Homeschooling moms do not normally have this sort of time during schooling times.

Day 1

Before you start organizing you need to get rid of the things that don't belong! Grab a black bag. Pick up and throw away all the rubbish that has collected. Included are papers, broken toys and other unused items. Well done, that's good enough for today!

Day 2

Second day get your children to help. Each of you must turn the room upside down, look under beds, in cupboards, go through bookshelves and baskets and get rid of anything that belongs to other parts of the home or their siblings. Make it a race against a clock, real or imagined. Pile the items up on the floor and then separate them into groups according to whose is whose. Your children will then each take a pile and return those items to their correct place. End of day 2, well done!

Day 3

Give your child's room a thorough clean, wipe down cupboards, vacuum floors and polish wood. Wash bedding and curtains. Replace them when dry. Spray the room with some rose water or a bought room spray. Set a vase of flowers somewhere in the room and take your children out for a treat! From now on, using the Zone article you can now spend a daily amount of time sorting out each zone with your child until they are able to maintain their rooms themselves.

When children won't do their chores



The home can be a very unhappy place when children won't do their chores. A vicious cycle can begin which ends in a yelling mom and very unhappy children. Many moms want to have their children work well and quickly...let me take you through some steps to help you when children won't do their chores.

There are a few categories for this type of behaviour:

- ✓ Dawdling over chores
- ✓ Not staying focused
- ✓ Blatant disobedience
- ✓ Age related issues

For children who won't do their chores as they dawdle over them or lose their focus, there is nothing better than a mom who is willing to work alongside her child and train them in the habit of attention. At the same time she is able to train her children in the habit of perfect execution.

My strategy for my dawdling child is to make sure I have set aside additional time in my own chore time so that I can come alongside this child and do the work with them. When I notice a child's attention is drifting I will call their focus back to the job at hand.

It is very important to do this as you are near to the child and not yell at them from the kitchen or another room in the home. The difference is one of a commander or one of a mentor.

For a child who battles to focus, they will probably have this character trait with many other areas. Perhaps it shows up in their schoolwork, activities and relationships. Using the same mentorship as described above you can come alongside your child and gently draw their attention to the job at hand.

For a child who loses focus and thus won't do their chores, it works very well to have a limited amount for them to do well rather than a whole host of chores that they will get confused over. It is also helpful for this child to have a printed list, even pictorial, that they can tick off until they have learnt the habit of attention.

For children who won't do their chores due to blatant disobedience you need to take a different tack. It starts with you assessing your parenting style as well as what you are expecting your children to do.

Here are some thoughts to consider:

- ✓ Am I encouraging my children in their chores?
- ✓ Am I training my children in how to do their chores properly or just yelling out instructions?
- ✓ Do I have the correct expectations by age?

If you feel that you are OK in the above points then you need to deal with your disobedient child firmly and consistently as you would in any other situation when your child is blatantly disobedient.

Lastly, when your children won't do their chores for any of these reasons perhaps you need to assess whether the chores you are setting for them are age related and that you are not expecting too much from your children.

It is also very important to remember that while you want the work done, your relationship with your children is more important. Remember too as you train your children to do their chores with perfect execution, that you are training them for a lifetime.

Age by age chore suggestions

Chores for a young child 2 – 5 years old



Chores for a young child are often not more than making sure they get through their personal hygiene and possibly a few extra easy jobs so that they can help as an important part of the family team.

A good work ethic can start right now with your young children who are under 5 years old. They will learn this good work ethic from you as you go about your homemaking and housekeeping with a happy heart.

They will also learn how to do their chores well as **you come alongside them** and help them until they are old enough to do the set work on their own. This is definitely not the age to stick a chart on a cupboard door and then expect them to get on with the job.

When our children were young our favorite song to sing with them as we went about chore time and cleaning up rooms was the Barney song: "Clean up, clean up, everyone do your share." It cast such a happy mood over the work and often lifted a sullen countenance when it came to picking up toys.

To get started with chores for your young children, **take it slow and just start with their personal hygiene.** Then when they are in the routine of those chores, you can add some simple everyday jobs for them like packing away their laundry, taking full rubbish bins to the larger bin and setting a table.

Little ones love cooking and baking so it is always good to include them in your meal preparation and planning, but do not make it a chore yet. Remember all work in the kitchen should be supervised.

Little ones also love gardening. Make sure that you take time to work with them each day in the outdoors. Get them a little spade and rake set, you can even get them miniature gardening gloves these days.

When they are ready to move from hygiene chores you can add some of the following to their chart:

- ✓ Throw nappy (diaper) away
- ✓ Empty waste bin
- ✓ Help to make bed
- ✓ Deliver clean folded washing to correct rooms
- ✓ Empty dishwasher of plastic

You can download chore charts for your young child here:

<http://www.homeschool-curriculum-for-life.com/chores-for-a-young-child.html>

Chore charts for preschoolers 5 – 7 yrs



Setting up a chore chart for preschoolers can be great fun as you use this time to train your child in life long skills.

Possibly at this age you are still dealing with child training issues and even bad attitudes over having to do work. I have found the younger I have begun and the happier I have made the chore times the easier it is to start adding on other chores to chore charts for preschoolers.

If you feel that your child has got their personal hygiene and a few other easy chores well covered it is time to move onto other ways for them to serve their family and do their "bit" around the home.

The same principle applies here as it did for chores with young children, you need to stay alongside this age group and work with them. Sure, there are things that you can set them to do after training them and leave them to complete the job on their own...but its always good to keep going back to check on their progress.

Remember too when making chore charts for preschoolers that **they love to have company**, they are starting they enjoy longer conversations and, as one of my children does, may enjoy music while they work.

Ensure that you add in some fun activities for preschoolers too, like using a spray bottle to clean mirrors! This age group love to see the product of their work so it an ideal time to add a nightly cooking chore. Our preschooler loves to make the salad with me in the evening while our older children make the dinner with me.

Remember never to leave your children alone in the kitchen with knives and hot things until they are MUCH older.

You preschooler quite possibly loves being out in nature and is starting to appreciate God's hand in His creation. These glimmers in the spirit of your child make it an ideal time to spend working in the garden together. You can assign a part of your garden to your preschool child that they can maintain with your help. It may be the weekly sweeping of pathways or even the weeding of your vegetable garden. Be sure to take the time to work with them and get your outdoors in order.

Choose some of the following chores from this list to add to their basic room and hygiene jobs when setting up your chore charts for preschoolers.

- ✓ Make own bed
- ✓ Personal hygiene – teeth, hair, bath, toilet
- ✓ Wipe up spills
- ✓ Dust furniture
- ✓ Vacuum a simple area
- ✓ Pick up mess outside
- ✓ Feed pets
- ✓ Wipe down walls
- ✓ Sweep pathways and porches
- ✓ Clean bathroom sink and baths
- ✓ Set table
- ✓ Help wash dishes
- ✓ Clean out loose objects from a car
- ✓ Fold washing

You can use these basic chore charts as templates to get you going until you feel confident with making your own. <http://www.homeschool-curriculum-for-life.com/chores-for-a-preschooler.html>

When your children have mastered caring for their own bodies and spaces you can consider adding in some of the following chores for school aged children.

Chores for 7- 12 year olds



Chores for school aged children build on what you have already taught them. Here you expect you children to **start thinking for themselves, and do a little extra than required.**

If you have not trained your school aged child in good chore habits yet, then you may have to take a little time to get their hygiene and life skill chores going well before moving onto this level of work.

If you have trained your children from young to work with you, and with a happy heart, then you can begin to wean them from your presence. You can also encourage them to think more about the others in their home and suggest that they go a step further than just doing what is on their chore lists, and to look about the house for what needs doing and jump into that job too.

Children on the older side of this spectrum, being 11 and 12 years old, should be able to work almost entirely on their own. But remember, **we all love company and someone to spur us on with an encouraging word.**

These chores can also include things that pop up intermittently and in ways where they can help others. These things may be playing an educational game with a younger sibling when mom is having a difficult day, or answering the telephone politely and taking a message, helping with library visits and simple mending.

School aged children can also begin to tackle more difficult cleaning jobs like washing pets, cars and cleaning out cupboards. It was at this age that we also introduced a paid chore system for our children using **Ka-Ching Business Parenting.**

Ideas for chores for school aged children:

- ✓ Vacuum larger areas
- ✓ Tidy lounge
- ✓ Prepare refreshments
- ✓ Cook dinner with help
- ✓ Bake for the week
- ✓ Help with gardening
- ✓ Raking
- ✓ Put washing in machine
- ✓ Strip beds
- ✓ Sweep floors
- ✓ Follow a recipe
- ✓ Sandwiches
- ✓ Wash dishes
- ✓ Put away clean dishes
- ✓ Separate laundry and help fold

You can use these basic chore charts as templates to get you going until you feel confident with making your own. <http://www.homeschool-curriculum-for-life.com/chores-for-school-aged-children.html>

Chores-for-teens 13 – 16



Chores for teens take on a completely different form from when you are working alongside your little ones and being their helper in their daily jobs. **These are the mentoring years!** You now have a thinking mature person as your help in the home. The bonus is that this is one of the times in your teen's day where you are going to chat with one another and be their mentor.

When you hit the teen years you should be well on your way to having a happy and capable helper in your home. If not then these tips about chore for teens will help you closer to your goal.

Parents, who have diligently been training their children from a young age in how to help in the home, will find that by now they can set their teen a chore and check when they are done for completeness. But even at this age chores for

teens can be a marvellous platform for you to train your young adult in neatness, perfect execution and a good work ethic.

Christine Fields says in her book **Lifeskills for Kids**: "*The attitudes and attributes that make a good employee are the same attitudes and attributes that make a good kid.*" So whether your child is self employed one day or employed by another, you are laying down good habits for the rest of their adult lives.

Perhaps you have not trained your teen as well as you would have liked too and you are facing sullen faces or untidy rooms everyday. Do not give in to frustration or anger...slowly build your relationship and value the relationship above the chore.

Most teens **need to know the "why"** for every instruction. You now have a wonderful opportunity to help them gain long term vision for their lives as adults. You also have the time now to use all these chore times as an opportunity to be close to your teen when there are many other things demanding their attention.

Paid chores also feature here, but it is important that your teen does most chores because they want to be a valuable part of the family team. This is not a mindset that you can force but one that a teen can adopt from their parents who seek to make family life cohesive and exciting.

Your teen may also want to start earning an income. If you feel that you do not want to pay your teen for chores done around the house, then I suggest that you encourage them to think entrepreneurially. Two resources that I have found to be helpful are **Ka-Ching Business Parenting** and **Sitesell Inc.**

Other ideas for them to earn money is through babysitting, cleaning cars in the neighborhood, walking dogs and selling baked items. Encourage them to help, just for the sake of helping, within the home with a younger sibling perhaps, or outside of the home by helping a grocery burdened mom or elderly person.

Assuming that your teen has their personal hygiene and room chores in place you can expect them to do **some of the following** chores for teens: (You will find details on how to do these chores in your FREE book entitled **How do I do this chore?**)

- ✓ Animal Care
- ✓ Preparing meals
- ✓ Doing the laundry
- ✓ Vacuuming the house
- ✓ Mopping floors
- ✓ Cleaning windows
- ✓ Baking
- ✓ Washing cars
- ✓ Pool care
- ✓ Mowing lawn (older teens)
- ✓ Recycling

Depending on the level of maturity of your older teen and their interests you can also consider the following:

- ✓ Car oil change
- ✓ Replace bulbs (CAUTION)
- ✓ Basic household repairs
- ✓ Basic household maintenance

- ✓ Basic mending of clothes
- ✓ Ironing
- ✓ Meal plans

To get started you can choose from these free printable chore charts for teens until you are ready to make your own. <http://www.homeschool-curriculum-for-life.com/chores-for-teens.html>

Zoning your children's rooms

Determining zones in your children's rooms will dictate how you zone them. When children share a room, as ours do, there are more hands to clean but just as many to make mess!

Each child's bed area (on top of and underneath) is one zone. But this zone forms part of a daily compulsory clean out. The floor is the second compulsory clean up each day. The remainder of the room is split.

Areas that can be considered daily zones are:

- ✓ Bookshelf
- ✓ Desk
- ✓ Clothes drawer (if there are many split into more than one day)
- ✓ Wardrobe
- ✓ Windowsills
- ✓ Top of drawers or standalone cupboards
- ✓ Bedside tables
- ✓ Toy areas (again these may need to be split)

You will determine your own zones in your children's rooms by taking a look through the room and mentally dividing them up. It is also helpful, for you and your children, to have these zones written up so that everyone knows who is accountable for what.

Sample of Zone Chart

DAY	Child 1	Child 2
Daily	Floor Under bed Bedside table	Floor Under bed Windowsill
Monday	Bookshelf	Bookshelf
Tuesday	Cupboard	Clothes drawer
Wednesday	Drawing table	Shoe shelf
Thursday	Drawers	Toy drawer
Friday	Toy cupboard	Toy cupboard

1. Put in right place
2. Throw away rubbish & broken items
3. Give away what you no longer need

Chore Allowances



Some parents are perplexed about whether or not to have paid chores for children. Here are some ideas on how to find the balance between paid chores and working for the good of the family team.

Up until very recently, in our home we have not paid our children for chores. We expected them to do the work in their rooms and about the house because they were part of the family. These chores were their personal ones around hygiene, their room and our kitchen.

Other big chores like cleaning the car, weeding the garden, cleaning the fish tanks and grooming pets have always fallen to me. But now that my children are older and more responsible I feel they are ready to do these big jobs for pay.

Thus the paid chores for children in our home have evolved from being jobs that I no longer need to do but fall outside of the rank of "easy personal chores" and I then employ them to do these jobs for me.

I have a chart drawn up with pay categories for them to choose from when they are looking for a productive activity or wanting to earn money towards a specific goal.

The idea of paid chores for children may be shunned by some idealists as creating a mindset that "unless you pay me, I will not work." But this is far from the truth.

I expect my children to do all their personal chores and help in meal prep and planning, setting and clearing the table and a host of other jobs around the house. My expectation is that they do the chores with a happy heart and to the best of their abilities. My children are thus finding their place in our family team by doing their part in the running of our home.

A tool that greatly helped us in forming our family agreement around chores and paid chores for children has been the **Ka-ching Business Parenting Course**. After helping us set up chore and paid chore systems Ka-Ching has helped us set up budgeting systems for the money earned.



As our children purchase items that they have been saving for, or use their earnings to bless others it has been a delight to help them forward with their goal or earning money around the house.

The ultimate goal with Ka-Ching is to help establish an entrepreneurial mindset in our children for their futures. So when we implement chores and paid chores for our children, we are actually building a good work ethic, training them in responsibility as well as helping them with decision making.

"Ka-Ching Business Parenting believes that if children are introduced to financial and business principles from a very young age, they are far more likely to be successful and enthusiastic when they enter the world of work" Ka-Ching Manual

Motivation



The chore pocket system is designed to be used by children as prompts for doing their chores. These should never replace the valuable relationship building platform that chores offer when a mom comes alongside her children and teaches them how to do their chores correctly. *"Time spent together can be the healer of wounded hearts and the vehicle of life instruction."* Christine Field, **Lifeskills for Kids.**

For some moms, getting their children to do their chores is just about keeping the house clean and rooms in order. But this attitude will box a very valuable life skill and never allow a mom to see the bigger picture. Christine Fields says in her book **Lifeskills for Kids:** *"The attitudes and attributes that make a good employee are the same attitudes and attributes that make a good kid."*

While I also know what a battle it can be to take the time out to train our children carefully and diligently with regards to their chores, I can also tell you that the time spent doing this returns 10 fold when your children begin to be working members of the household. I also know that we can often do the job much quicker on our own, particularly when it comes to meal preparation, but as your children grows older and understands safety rules in the kitchen you will be blessed with some budding chefs who can give you the night off!

Do not limit chores to just being chores. Always remember the long term purpose. If you are not sure how to do certain jobs on these cards, please refer to your FREE book entitled "How do I do this chore?" where each job is described in detail.

The Bible says: *"For it is precept upon precept, rule upon rule, here a little, there a little."* Isaiah 28:10 And if this is they way God's prophets taught the people then we too should teach those that are our offspring in that same way.

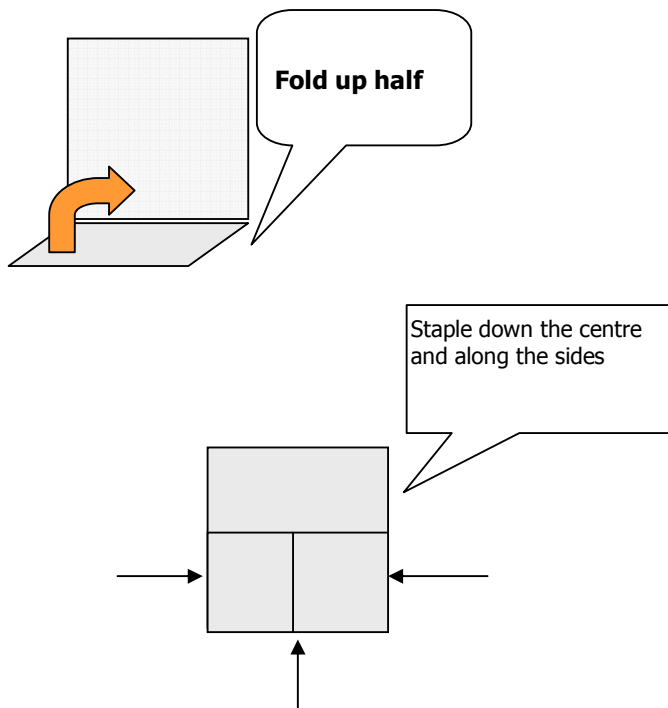


Putting your system in place:

- ❖ Print out the chore cards, cut them into equal sizes and laminate if necessary. We were happy with card.
- ❖ Create your chore card pockets in one of the following ways:

Option 1 – individual pockets

1. Use an A4 sized piece of card in your child's favourite colour.



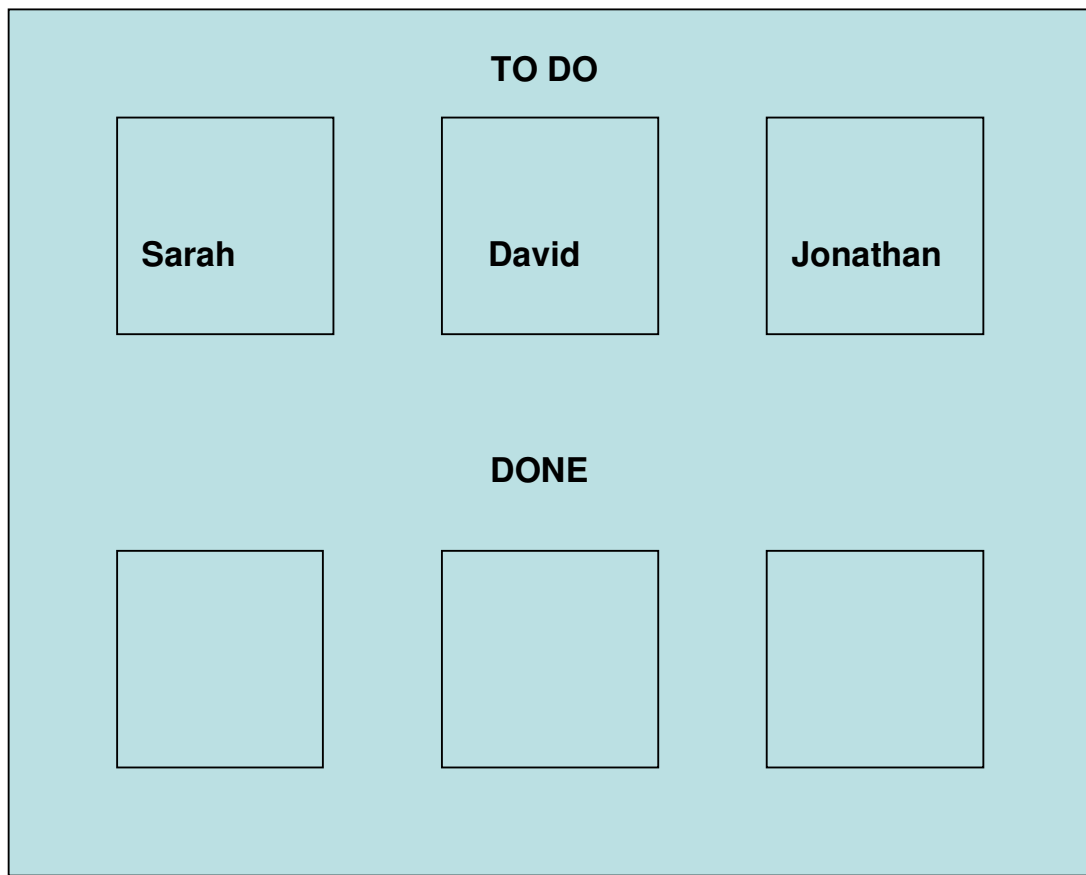
2. Write your child's name on the top and "TO DO" on the left pocket and "DONE" on the right pocket.

OR

Option 2 - central pocket system

This works well when you have younger children that you need to keep a check on as well as when you have many children and prefer to have the chore pockets in your kitchen as a central place.

Use an A3 piece of card and create small pockets for the cards to fit into for each child, one row on top and a second on the bottom.



Now, simply go through the chores with your children, the expected times to do them as well as the standard you expect. You may want to have a series of consequences for chores not done correctly. For example – if our children have not made their beds in the morning, they do not get breakfast. Try and make the consequences as relevant to the neglected chore as possible.

Lastly, any chore cards that are only relevant on a weekend keep in a separate envelope which you can add to the pocket on Friday evening or Saturday morning. You can also add any paid chores (see template below) on a Friday to a running list.

Chore Allowances			
Description		Pay	

Links to books and programs mentioned:

Lifeskills for Kids

http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?event=AFF&p=1136046&item_no=884722

Ka-ching Business Parenting

<http://ka-chingworld.com/t/?a=436905>

Sitesell Inc

<http://sitesell.com/Wendy27.html>

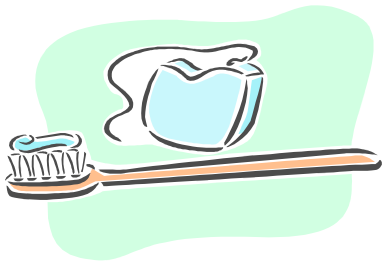
God bless you as you train your children,
Wendy Young



Make my bed



Get dressed



Brush my teeth



Feed my pet



Brush my hair



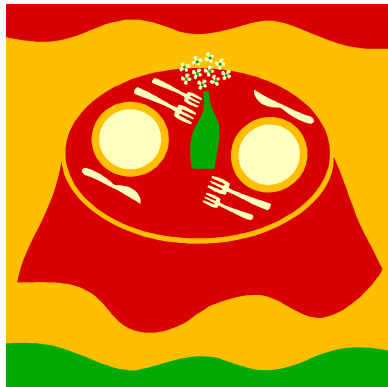
Empty bins



Pick up toys



Put laundry away



Set the table



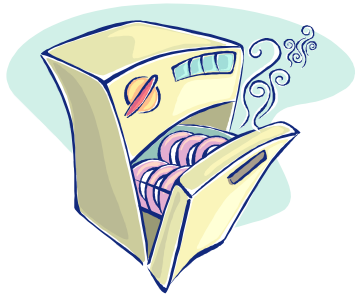
Rake leaves



Sweep Floor



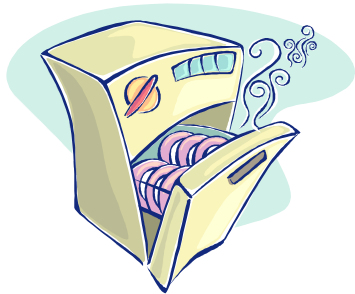
Help mom
prepare a meal



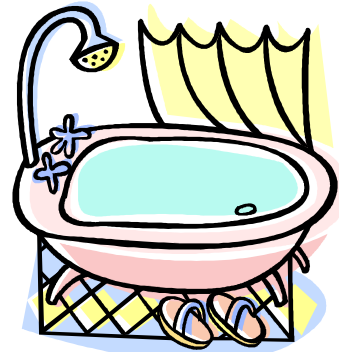
Unpack
dishwasher



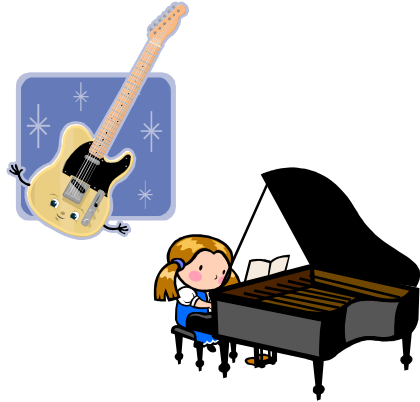
Wash dishes



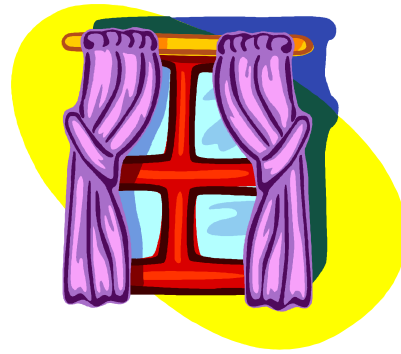
Pack
dishwasher



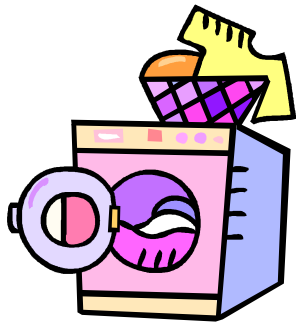
Tidy
Bathroom



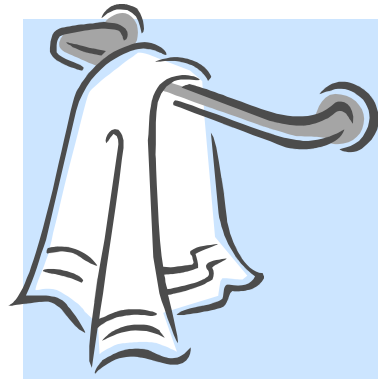
Practice musical instrument



Open/close curtains



Put on washing



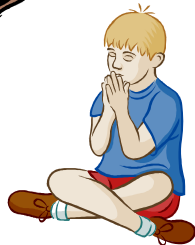
Hang up towels



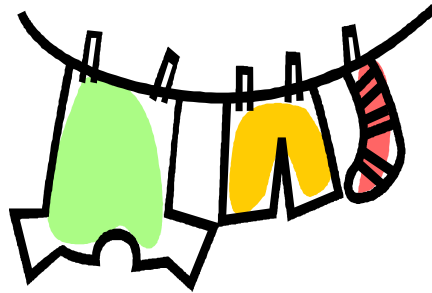
Put washing in
laundry basket



Have a bath
or shower



Quiet time



Hang up
washing



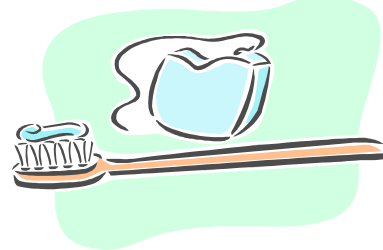
Feed my pets



Dog's water



Make my bed



Brush my teeth



Brush my hair



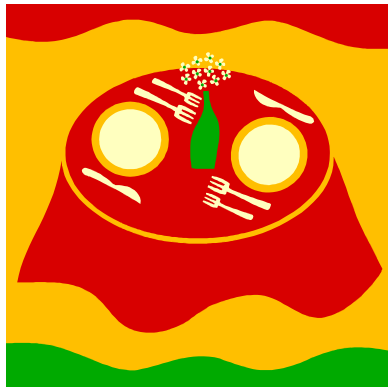
Clean schoolroom



Clean bedroom



Put laundry away



Set the table



Rake leaves



Sweep Floor



Help mom
prepare a meal



Do schoolwork



Help another



Vacuum room



Bath dogs



Bake Snacks



Wash Car



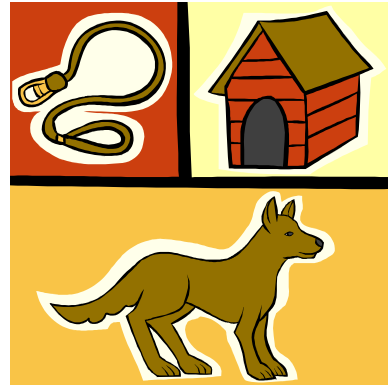
Pool care



Tidy garden



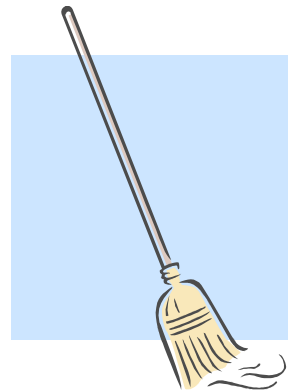
Pick up toys



Dog mess



Tidy lounge



Sweep pathway

How do I.....



Do the laundry?



Bath myself?



Clean my cupboard?



Sweep the floor



Vacuum the carpets?

A parental mentoring system to help children to do their chores properly!

How this system works

These instruction sheets are not meant to replace the valuable interaction between parent and child that happens when a parent takes the time to come alongside their child and train them in any area of life.

Yet I know that many moms are busy, particularly as homeschoolers where we tend to have larger than normal families. Often these same moms are battling to stay on top of cleaning and organizing their homes. Some may not even know how to do it effectively.

These detailed instructions thus serve two purposes. The first is to give mom an on hand source on how to keep the majority of her home clean, and secondly they are a tool for her to use when training their child. For more help in getting your home organized, be sure to visit [Organized Mom!](#)

Please use your wisdom in allocating chores. You will get lots of help on my [children's chore pages](#) with allocating the correct chore to the right aged child. This prevents frustration in both mom and child.

Simply use these chore lists to refresh your memory on how to do the work properly, come alongside your child and train them. Older children enjoy having these lists placed in a plastic flip file that they can refer to when they go through their daily, weekly and monthly chores.

If you need any further assistance, please [email me](#) and I will do my best to help you out!

Blessings
Wendy Young

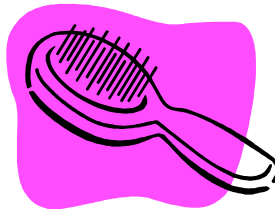
Getting myself dressed

Things I need:

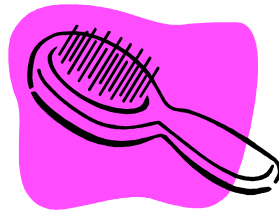
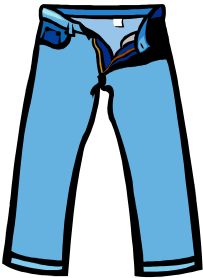
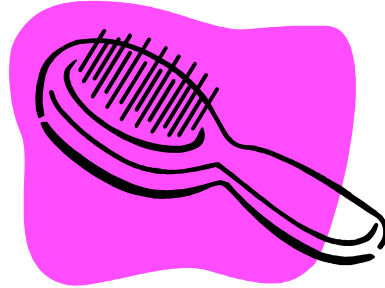
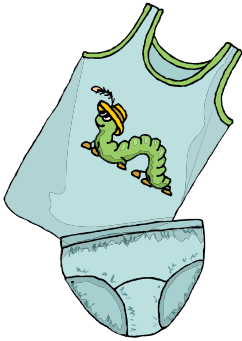
Summer:



or



Winter:



NOTE: This is just a rough guideline for young children

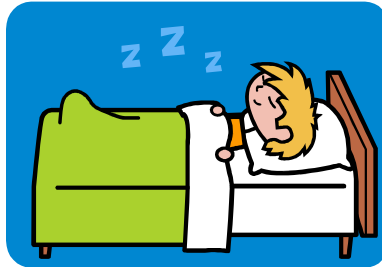
Bathing on my own!



- Put out my pajamas
- Tie up my hair (girl)
- Get my towel in reach
- Wash with soap and cloth
 - Rinse off all soap
 - Climb out of the bath
 - Towel dry & dress
- Let out water (if no one is to follow)
 - Squeeze out cloth and hang up
 - Put soap in soap dish
 - Hang up towel
 - Make sure the floor is dry

NOTE: Please do not leave a child who cannot swim alone in the bath.

How do I make my bed?



- Take your pillow and toys off
 - Pull your blanket back/off
 - Dust your sheet off
 - Pull covers back up
- Put folded PJ's under pillow
- Replace any toys & pillow

How do I clean my drawers?



Tools I need:

Feather duster or dusting clothe, hand held vacuum cleaner

- Remove any drawers one at a time.
- Empty out the contents of one drawer.
 - Vacuum out the drawer
- Replace the items that belong in that drawer
 - Throw away any rubbish
- Put away other items into the correct places

NOTE: If you have many drawers to clean, consider splitting this task over a few days.



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How do I clean my cupboard ?



Tools I need:

Feather duster or dusting clothe, carrier bag,
washing hamper

- Remove items from top shelf
 - Dust out the shelf
- Fold the clothes and replace only those that belong on that shelf.
- Next remove the items from the next shelf, dust, fold clothing and replace
 - Continue until shoe shelf
- All clothing that is outgrown needs to be placed in a carrier bag for a younger sibling or the poor
- All clothing that is dirty needs to be put in the washing hamper.

TREAT yourself after this big job, well done!

Note: young children may only manage a shelf a day, consider splitting this job!

Tips on organizing a child's cupboard

1. Place all out of season clothing on the highest shelf
2. Place shoes on bottom shelf
3. Set aside one shelf for underwear and socks and accessories
4. Allocate one shelf for tops, T-shirts etc
5. Allocate another for pants and shorts
6. Have a hanging space for dresses and jackets
7. Put up some hooks for hats, belts and scarves.

How do I feed my dogs?



What I need:

Dog bowls, dog food

- Prepare dog food on the counter
 - Take the dogs outside
 - Make them sit
 - Give them their food
- When they are finished rinse out the bowls
- Replace fresh water at breakfast, lunch and dinner time.

Setting and clearing the table



Tools I need:

Knives, forks, spoons, placemats, glasses, serviettes, side plates, condiments

- Clear table of everything not dinner related
 - Set out the placemats per person
 - Place knives on the Right
 - Place forks on the Left
 - Place desert spoon at the top
 - Place glass above the knife
 - Place side plate next to the knife
 - Put the folded serviette on the plate
- Place condiments in the centre of the table
- Everyone should clear their own plate to be washed.
- The child on duty should clear the rest & return the items to the cupboards.

How do I wash the dishes?

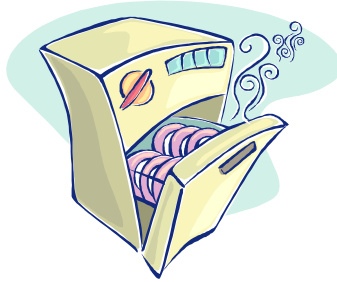


Tools I need:

Sponge, dishwashing liquid, basin of warm water, bottle brush, scourer, dish towel

- Lay a clean dish towel out on the counter
- Fill your basin with warm soapy water
- If there are baby's bottles these should be washed first, rinse in fresh water
- Wash all the glasses & mugs; rinse in fresh water; place them upside down on the towel to drain
- Wash all the plates and cutlery; rinse in fresh water stack on the draining board
- Wash all the pots with a scourer; rinse in fresh water – be careful for those that have non stick finishes.
- Dry the dishes with a clean dry dish towel and pack away.
- Let out the basin of water, rinse the basin and sponges
- Hang up the dishcloths to dry

How do I use dishwasher?



Packing:

- After a meal, scrape off all plates.
- Some like to rinse off plates as well
- Stack the dishwasher ensuring that the water jets can get access to dirty surfaces
 - Add the detergent
- When full turn on to the correct cycle

Unpacking:

- Unpack all plastic to the correct cupboards. If it is still wet, place in the draining rack on the sink.
 - Unpack all the crockery, if any are still soiled, place in the sink
- Unpack all cutlery, if any are still soiled, place in the sink
- Unpack glasses and mugs, if any are still soiled, place in the sink.
 - Close the dishwasher door

How do I clean the kitchen counters?



Tools I need:

Damp cloth, small plastic bowl, surface cleaner in spray bottle

- Remove all items from the counter tops
- Using the damp cloth, wipe off all the crumbs.
- Catch the crumbs in the small plastic bowl held just below the countertop's height
- Spray down the counter with cleaning liquid
 - Wipe all over.
 - Rinse out cloth and wipe again.
- Replace kitchen items on the countertop
 - Rinse out cloth, hang up to dry
- Return cleaning spray to the cupboard

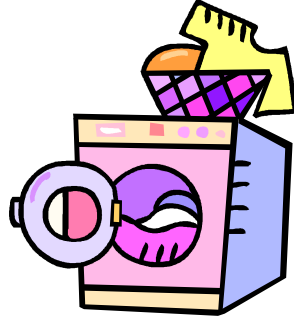


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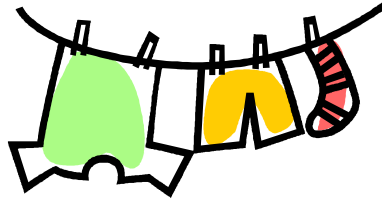
How do I do the laundry?



Step 1: Washing Machine

- Sort clothing into colors – lights and dark separate.
- Take out all the hand washables.
- Sort into wash loads according to the size of the machine.
- Put the first load into the machine. Add soap and softener.
- Switch on machine

Step 2: Drying washing



- Separate laundry for the dryer from those items for the line.
- Place clothing into the dryer. Give it a good shake out before putting it in! Turn on to correct time.
- Take the other to the wash line with the peg bag.
- Hang shirts by their hem or under the armpits
- Pants hung by their waist band



Step 3: Folding washing



- Remove dry washing from the dryer before it creases.
- Take washing off the line. Put aside those items that need ironing.
- Fold all the clothing that does not need ironing.
- Get family members to collect their items.

How to fold:

Shirts – fold arm to arm and then in half

Pants – fold leg to leg, then in half

Socks – place on top of the other and roll together

Towels – lie lengthways in the counter; fold in half then half again

Underwear – Fold in half

NOTE: In our home, ironing is an adult's chore. I have thus not dealt with it here!

How do I empty the dustbins?



Tools I need:

Dustpan and broom, new refuse bag

- Collect all small bins through the house.
- Remove the lid of the large bin in the house.
 - Remove all dry recyclable items.
 - Empty small bins into the large bin.
- Remove the refuse bag from large bin if full.
 - Tie the full refuse bag.
- Take the full bag to the outside bin for collection
- Replace the refuse bag in household dustbin.
- Replace small bins to the correct place in the home.

NOTE: In our home our 4 year old manages this job providing the refuse bag is not too heavy. We bought him a little trolley to take the refuse bag out to the external dustbin for collection.

How do I sweep the floor?



Tools I need:

Broom, dustpan, hand-brush

- Close all doors and windows in the room
 - Pick up all large objects
 - Remove all chairs from under tables
- Sweep starting from one end of the room
 - Make a pile from the sweepings
- Sweep up pile with dustpan and brush
 - Empty in bin
 - Replace chairs
- Open doors and windows
- Pack away brooms and pan

How do I tidy the living room?



Tools I need:

Carrier bag, room spray

- Remove all “foreign objects” from the lounge
 - Put them into your carrier bag
- Remove cushions from the sofa, fluff and replace
 - Shake out any throws, and replace
 - Open curtains and windows
 - Straighten carpets
 - Vacuum or sweep if needed
 - Polish or dust furniture
- Return “foreign” objects to correct places.
 - Replace all cleaning equipment
 - Spray the room with a room spray.

Fresh flowers from the garden are always a nice addition!

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How do I tidy the bookshelf?



Tools I need:

Feather duster or dusting clothe, dustbin

- Remove books from top shelf
 - Dust out the shelf
- Sort the books into size or category replace only those that belong on that shelf.
- Next remove the books from the next shelf, dust, sort and replace
 - Continue until the bottom shelf
- Put all scraps of paper and other rubbish into the dustbin
- Return all other items that do not belong on that shelf to the correct places.

NOTE: It is important to start with the top shelf so that the bookshelf does not become top heavy and topple over on the child doing the chore.

How do I vacuum?



Tools I need:

Vacuum Cleaner & attachments

- Pick up any large objects
- Using a narrow nozzle, vacuum around the boards
- Put on the flat head, vacuum the carpet
- Remove cushions from chairs
- Put the upholstery head on and vacuum couches
- Replace cushions
- Pack away vacuum cleaner

NOTE: Please ensure you connect and disconnect the plug for your children.
They should not work alone with electricity

How do I dust & polish ?



Tools I need:

Feather duster & dusting clothe
Furniture polish

- Remove all small objects from table tops
- Using the feather duster or clothe, dust all the small objects.
- Quickly wipe down the surfaces
- Spray or wipe a small amount of furniture polish onto the wood surfaces
- Wipe until the dullness is removed and the wood shine.
- Make sure that a build up doesn't form in small corners
- Replace all objects
- Return cleaning materials to the correct places.

Note: If your children are young, it may be better for you to apply the polish to prevent accidents.

How do I clean the bath & basin?



Tools I need:

Clothe/sponge & Cleaning liquid

- Squirt cleaning liquid on basin/bath
 - Wet clothe/sponge
 - Wipe all of the area
- Concentrate on toothpaste & brown ring stains
 - Rinse out clothe
 - Rinse out basin/bath
- Squeeze out cloth/sponge
- Return cleaning liquid & clothe to storage place

How do I clean the shower?



Tools I need:

Sponge, scrubbing brush & cleaning liquid
Best done in swimming costume and slip
proof sandals 😊

Squirt cleaning liquid on shower walls

Scrub walls

Step out of shower

Spray floor of shower

Scrub floor

Without slipping climb back in
turn on the taps and rinse off the walls and
floor.

Pack away cleaning equipment, dry the floor
and yourself!

WARNING!! Please do not let young children try this job without your full attention!

How do I the windows?



This is a big job and should be done in little bits so as not to overwhelm or each child can take a turn to do a room's windows!

Tools I need:

Window cleaning liquid in a spray bottle, lint free cloth, bucket warm soapy water, soft sponge, window scraper, newspaper

Step 1: Outside

- Wet the sponge
- Wipe the outside of the windows
- Put the sponge in the bucket
- Using the window scraper, work from top down to scrape off the excess water
- Using piece of scrunched up newspaper, wipe the window until no streaks are left

Step 1: Inside



- Spray a little cleaner aimed at the top of the window.
- Using a lint free cloth wipe the window until all the streaks are gone.
- When all the windows are done pack away the cleaning items
 - Empty out the water in a drain
 - Pack away bucket
- Rinse out sponge and cloth, set to dry in the sun.

This is a paid chore in our home.

How do I do the recycling?



Tools I need:

Old boxes & refuse bags, recyclable materials.

- Label boxes/bags in categories:
 - Glass
 - metal
 - plastic bottles
 - plastic bags
 - cardboard
- Sort your materials accordingly
- Place the boxes/bags in the car for disposal at a recycling centre.



NOTE: This is one of the yuckier chores and is thus a paid chore in our home.

How do I clean the pool?



NOTE: This chore is obviously only for a teen or older child who is totally water safe!!! Do not leave young children unattended around water!

Tools I need:

Pool net, Ph test kit, plastic carrier bag, pool brush

- Remove pool safety net
- Scoop out any leaves on the surface
- Brush down the sides and steps of the pool
- Test the ph of the pool according to the instructions in the kit
 - Turn off the pool filter
- Remove the leaf catcher & empty into a carrier bag
 - Replace leaf catchers, turn on filter
 - NB! Replace pool net**
- Pack away equipment and throw away leaves
- Inform your parents if any chemical need to be added to the pool water.

This is a paid chore in our home!

How do I tidy the bookshelf?



Tools I need:

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- Remove books from top shelf
 - Dust out the shelf
- Sort the books into size or category replace only those that belong on that shelf.
- Next remove the books from the next shelf, dust, sort and replace
 - Continue until the bottom shelf
- Put all scraps of paper and other rubbish into the dustbin
- Return all other items that do not belong on that shelf to the correct places.

NOTE: It is important to start with the top shelf so that the bookshelf does not become top heavy and topple over on the child doing the chore.

How do I mow the lawn?



NOTE: This is not for children below 14 years of age who has not been trained carefully by their parent.

Insist on the child wearing laced up CLOSED shoes!

Tools I need:

Lawn mower, extension lead if electric, petrol if a petrol mower, strong refuses bags

- Clear lawn of all items that could damage the mower blades (i.e. toys, stones)
- Mow from one end of the lawn to the other in long sweeps.
- As the cutting box fills, empty it onto your compost heap or in a refuse bag
(**NOTE:** do not overfill the refuse bags as they will be too heavy to carry or break
And thus waste your time & energy to clean it up again!)
- When finished, return mower to its storage place.
 - Place refuse bags at the bins to be collected or taken to the dump

Well done! This is a big job – reward yourself with a treat and a nice cool drink!

How do I wash the car?



Tools I need:

Bucket of warm water, sponges & clothes, hose pipe, old clothes, car shampoo, old toothbrushes, old newspaper, vacuum cleaner & car chamois, window spray cleaner.

Step 1 – The inside:

It is important for safety to vacuum first before you wet the area around the car.

- Remove all car mats
- Vacuum the interior of the car
- Bang mats out and replace
- Wipe down surfaces with a damp clothe
- Clean inside of windows with a spray and lint free clothe
- Pack away the vacuum cleaner



Step 2 – The outside:

- Mix the correct proportion of car shampoo into the water.
 - Make sure all windows and doors are closed.
 - Hose off the car until wet
- Starting from the top down, sponge down the car with the shampoo
 - Use the toothbrushes for wheel rims
- Rinse off the car from the top down with the hose pipe
 - Using the Chamois wipe down the car
- Scrunch up a piece of newspaper, dry off the windows and mirrors
 - Rinse out clothes and sponges and bucket
 - Throw away the used newspaper
- Return all cleaning equipment to the correct places.

