

5 Tips for Toys

- 1 Have a designated room or area for toys.**
Having their "own space" will do wonders with your children. Life skills will be learned regarding sharing, cleaning and maintaining, and giving away.
- 2 Let the "spot for toys" truly be THEIRS!**
Let them decorate it the way they want. Make it colorful. Hang chalk boards and white boards on the wall. Hang art projects from cork boards or cork strips. If they want to hang paper chains from corner to corner, have at it!
- 3 Create a "Hall of Fame" to display their best work!**
Places like Pottery Barn Kids and Aaron Brothers have great artwork frames to hold their creations!
- 4 Find new uses for old toys before discarding them.**
Turn an old train table into "Racecar rally", "Puzzle station", "Barbie Kingdom" or "Lego-town".
- 5 Be known as the mom who plays with her kids.**
Get on the floor and have tickle-fights. Play games on your belly. Climb the slide in the backyard rather than just fixing it.



Kids Rooms:

Clothes-

By season- on calendar 2/year (October & April)- "go through kids closets"

Older kids-do with them, younger-have them help at the end

Start-3 bins

1. Go through current closet-things either stay or go
If go: put in 1 of 3 bins
Clothes to put away for next year or later (mine-under bed)
Clothes to pass on to younger siblings/cousin/friend
Give away
2. Pull out all clothes for that season (mine-under bed)- go through with child (they can help hang, try on, say what they like and dislike-involve them!)
3. Take the bins (put away, pass on, give away)- empty them immediately
4. Take one bin-place in each closet-as things get outgrown- dump in there

Also do shoes at this time-check shoelaces, polish (father/child thing in our house)

Book-oversized shoe basket-store all shoes (laundry basket)

use this time- check drawers too (undies, socks, mismatched pairs)

Mom dot system

Fix whatever needs mending

Touch up with iron if necessary

I throw a few things in dryer with dryer sheet to fluff up

Make list of what needed- stick to it!

Other ideas:

Show barrettes hanging on ribbon/Show barrette boxes- ribbon and boxes are easy to make and could be sold.

Bars to hang clothes/days of week boxes for clothes

Rods- great for little kids getting their own clothes

Take away as get older and replace with drawer units or shoe stackers

Book basket-encourages reading at any age

Ikea pillows- (\$2- can be used and tossed whenever they get thrown up on/peed on/etc)

Make their beds EVERY DAY (biggest impact on how the room looks)

Waterproof mattress pad (inside Out)
No thick comforters/washable/elastic around edges
Peep holes

Kids don't need to have extra guest bed for friends. Sleeping bags-easy to store, cut down on linens and laundry

Schedule time each week when kids expected to clean their rooms. Schedule as you would a soccer game or trip to the dentist. Easier to do when regular routine in place.

Great place to start learning how to clean (small area/their area)

Also, provide specific directions on "how and where" to start, and what needs to be accomplished before they are finished. (Tuck dolls into beds) Saying "clean your room" could just frustrate. Explain why/benefits. Best way is to work with them, to show them how.

Break into 10-15 minute increments only- and use a timer.

Teach kids to hang up clothes/put in hamper right from start

use divided hamper (Costco- 3-section)- teach kids to separate as they take off (whites/lights/darks and shades of red)

Read page 163 of '10-Minute Clutter Control'-rearranging furniture in kid's rooms
When redid girl's room- moved train table in boys-happy as he could be

Kids Bathroom:

Kid's bath-Toys- favorite mesh bag/huge Rubbermaid- how to store toys

Sprayer nozzle attached to shower head- great for giving bath/kids learning how to shower themselves/cleaning tub

Hooks- every door (personalized towels- name/color)

Cups on counter- too much space/dirty- now Dixie cups/holder

Before leaving the bathroom- 15 seconds wipe down sink/counter

Windex- same way

Teach kids to do their bathroom- assign a kid each day to shine bathroom before coming down for breakfast- literally takes 15 seconds

