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TEACHING CHILDREN TO ORGANIZE

By Monica Ricci

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Teaching Children To Organize

Organizing is something that many people are born with, yet those who aren't need not despair. Organizing is a **LEARNED SKILL** and one that kids and adults alike can pick up at any time. Here are some ways to organize a kid's room, and teach the principles of organizing at the same time.

OLD FRIENDS

If the child has a lot of stuffed animals that he/she has outgrown but just isn't ready to part with yet use a **HAMMOCK** or a net that hangs way up in the corner of the ceiling. The toys can be put up there and they can still be seen but they are out of the way.

SETTING UP CATEGORIES

Kids can organize their toys by category (cars and trucks together, dolls together, specific types of games together, etc) in big bins or baskets. If the child can read, **LABEL** the bins to help them remember which bins are for which category. **LIDS** are usually too much for kids to deal with, so get containers without lids, or store the lids elsewhere for when the kids aren't using the bins anymore.

GET IN THE ZONE

Set up "zones" in the room for **DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES** art & craft zone, reading zone, puzzle zone, and a large play area to play with blocks and whatnot. Get the appropriate **TOOLS** for each zone, such tables for the child to work at in the art and craft zone, shelves for puzzles and games in that zone, and a comfy chair and a bookshelf in the reading zone.

GO UP

Because kids need a good amount of floor space to play in, use the **WALL SPACE** for storage. Hanging sturdy shelves or wall bins at a height that can be reached by the kids, clear plastic wall pockets, or stacked milk crates work well for kids to do their own organizing. Container Store is great for shelves if you have one in your area. Their Elfa shelving system is totally **ADJUSTABLE**, so when the kids grow taller, just snap out the shelves, and snap them in higher up on the tracks! It's the only

shelving system I use with my clients, and I love it.

A HOME FOR EVERYTHING

Teach kids the benefit of CONTAINERIZING items by category or by the activity that required?for example, things you build, things you read, things to draw with/on, or toys with wheels. Teach them how organizing makes their things easier to find. So much of what we call clutter is just stuff that has no home, and even kids can ASSIGN homes to all their stuff and be taught how to put things away when they're finished.

DRESSING IN A SNAP

For kids clothing, install shelving in their closets that they can reach and use lots of hooks and HANGING SPACE. If kids clothes are in a folded pile or in a drawer, they are more likely to just wear what's on top, rather than looking through the pile, so hang as much as possible.

DISPLAYING THEIR ARTWORK

Hang a clothesline along one wall of the child's room, a few feet down from ceiling level, and use CLOTHESPINS to display artwork that kids bring home from school. Once it's been displayed, if the child can't part with it, use clear UNDERBED containers for longer-term storage.

Kids can be taught organizing concepts and tactics, which will serve them well through school and into their adult years. And who knows?with their creative little minds working, you might learn something new about organizing from them!

Monica Ricci has been an organizing specialist since 1999, and her motivational presentations teach effective organizing and simplifying techniques for home and work. She also offers free email tips and ideas on how to make life simpler and more organized. Her topics include clutter control, paper management, time management, organizing space and procrastination. Contact Monica at 770-569-2642 or Monica@CatalystOrganizing.com.

Where Can I Find Teaching Materials For Homeschooling?

By James Masterson

How do you successfully determine what method of teaching, what lessons to teach and at what speed? Having decided to educate your kids at home for the purpose of giving your children the needed attention they require, do you still follow the school's standards of what subjects to cover and take up and when? Has keeping with the rules and standards of the school meant hurrying your children through anything by driving them to memorizing certain areas of the subject matter so to progress?

If you are, keep in mind that you are not doing your children any favors at all. For kids to really be equipped for life, you should exploit the benefits of what homeschooling will permit you to accomplish and that is choosing your objectives and goals and setting the pace in relation to your children's specific needs.

By far, the biggest challenge that a homeschooling parent encounters is making a homeschooling schedule. While some make use of software programs, some parents write their notes in notebooks or in computer programs such as Microsoft Word; some plan the activities as the day goes and others do the planning ahead; there are some who do not make plans at all. It would really depend on the type of person that you are, on where are you comfortable with.

However, making a yearly plan of objectives consisting of goals which you have established for your child is the best, convenient and effective way to go. Basing from the goals you have set, the choices you make when gathering the homeschooling materials needed will be much easier and ensure that they will be put into productive use.

Since you are well familiar with your child's learning abilities, it is wise that the goals you set will be based from his/her capabilities. At such time that your child is old or mature enough, he can and must help in the goals that you make, ultimately setting his own goals, making you his advisor.

You can acquire homeschooling teaching materials on the internet, and it is important that you become well acquainted with the teaching materials in order that you can manage, organize and take control so that you understand and see everything in an orderly manner. Here are suggestions to help you achieve this task:

1. Group materials for the whole school year by topic.
2. Sort out the teaching materials that will be used by you from the materials that will be used by your child.
3. Place the materials in such a way that it is accessible to the kids when they need to refer to it.
4. When organizing the educational materials for every subject, keep the primary alongside the supplemental materials, as well as make certain that extra materials, like additional readings and tools, are readily available when needed.
5. Take into account making a listing of educational materials that you have. This is useful especially

when you are teaching two or more children as the list can keep track and organize the materials that you have through the years.

6. After obtaining the materials for a certain subject's curriculum, study and spend a lot of time getting yourself familiar and well acquainted with everything. You can inspect the materials through answering the following guidelines:

How are these materials constructed to be carried out?

What is the expected time frame for each session? What type of performance is expected for the child?

Do I have all supplemental materials that I need, such as the teacher's guide or student workbooks? If not, you will need to get them before the school year starts.

Do supplemental materials, like the answer key and teacher's guide fit in and conform with it?

Do the materials actually match your expectations? At times when you were not able to directly examine the materials, when you receive them, they are not what you really have expected. Return and replace the materials with what really matches your needs.

The technology of today, especially the internet has exposed a lot of homeschooling materials and supplies readily available to all individuals. With a lot of research one can surely find homeschooling educational software, lesson plans, curriculums, programs, educational games, activities, and a lot more!

The internet is overflowing with information so searching for and looking for resources is not a problem at all. Also, there are a number of support groups and forums to ensure an effective homeschooling experience for you.

It doesn't matter if you just want to explore home schooling possibilities or have made the decision and are looking for a guide to point you in the right direction, "The Parents Guide to Home Schooling" will provide you with the information you require. <http://www.free-online-course.com/homeschool>

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