

Hang on! Help is on the way. Try these super strategies for making family life easier.

Katy Family Gram

Great tips for staying organized and on schedule

Written by Katy Magazine's Editors



THE DONATE BASKET

Keep a box or basket close at-hand for dropping in toys and clothes that you are ready to donate.

HANG IT UP

Put over-the-door organizers on bedroom and bathroom doors at a level children can reach to help keep backpacks, jackets, robes, and towels off the floors.

LEGO STORAGE AND PLAY

Keep Lego bricks in gallon Ziploc bags and when it's time to play with them, pour them onto cookie sheets to avoid losing the pieces all over the floor.

SHOE BASKET

Keep a shoe basket by the front door where kids can leave their shoes and find them easily the next morning. Have a rule that all shoes must be in closets or the basket.

NO HAMPERS IN ROOMS

Have children drop laundry in the various color bins in the laundry room. Have one for whites, darks, and colors.

BACKPACK PURGE

Every Sunday night, have children bring backpacks to the living room and dump them out. Clear out old school papers, snacks, and art so they are ready for the new week.

IT'S GO TIME

Set your phone or kitchen timer to ring five minutes before you have to leave. When the bell goes off everyone starts heading for the door.

TOY ROTATION

Keep a limited number of toys in bins and sorters then switch them up monthly with the toys you've tucked away to freshen up the play area.

HOMEWORK HOUR

Have a dedicated homework hour where all devices go off and studying goes on.

GET A TOY, GIVE A TOY

Whenever you get a new toy, have a rule that they must add a toy to the giveaway box.

NIGHT TIME PLANNING

Take showers, pack lunches, and plan what to wear the night before to ease the morning rush.

VISUAL SCHEDULE

Publish your family's daily schedule using a cute poster or colorful list that's posted where everyone can see it.

THIS OR THAT

Lay out two outfit options for younger kids and let them choose which one they prefer.

COMING SOON

At dinner, get your kids talking about what's coming up. They know more than you realize and discussing it ahead of time reinforces the plan.

FASHION SHOW

Once a year, have children put on a fashion show using their school clothes. They'll have fun while you get to see what they've outgrown and what's ready to be donated.

CHORE CHARTS

Post a cleaning schedule in a visible area and allow kids to check off their chores as work gets done.

PICTURE LABELS

Label toy bins with pictures of what the bin contains so little ones can help put toys away easily. For example, dinosaurs, cars, etc.

CUBBY CORNER

Keep a cubby or box next to the door with what your child needs to take to school the next day. **KM**

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and PLAY
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