

Organizing our Stuff

Episode 32



Power of Moms

A Gathering Place for Deliberate Mothers

What do we do with all of our stuff? There are so many different categories of stuff, and somehow it seems that they are constantly multiplying!

Let's start with a look at how we can approach toys.

TOYS

Having more toys constantly accessible seems to actually be counterproductive to keeping children occupied and creative. We create bored children, and try to conquer that by purchasing more toys. Soon the children are buried in toys that they don't use and don't love.

Standards:

- Do not require batteries.
- Sets that go together that can be used in combinations to increase versatility have been very successful in Saren and April's homes. Some examples of their kids' favorite imaginative play toys are: Legos, Kinex, Lincoln Logs, Magformers, figurines, Playmobile, dollhouses, Zoobs, FisherPrice sets, etc.
- Single use toys seem to have a very short play life with our children. Encourage imaginative play.
- Keep them in the closet, sorted, and bring down one bin at a time. When you rotate toys it is like Christmas morning all over again, and the toys are more used and loved in productive ways. This rotation also helps cleaning up very feasible for the children to help with.

There seems to be more junk toys these days, and there are certain catch spots in our houses that these toys end up landing. Every time I start organizing I think, "Do we love these toys? Are they worth the space they are taking in our lives and in our homes?"

When cleaning, teach kids how to sort their toys into different piles:

- I love this
- I haven't used this in awhile
- I don't want this
- Garbage

See Stuff Control 101 on www.powerofmoms.com —what do you want to bring into your home?

Think about toys as consumables: We don't have to keep toys forever—when we are buying a toy or game, we should pass old ones along to someone else.

Same principle with clothing

Clothing

Find regular opportunities to evaluate our stuff. Calendar it if needed—beginning of spring and beginning of fall, for example.

Sorting closets prior to shopping, the 80/20 rule applies to so many different aspects of our lives, getting rid of 80% of our things that we only wear 20% of the time makes our lives so much more streamlined and less cluttered.

Cubby systems work best for Saren, what kind of space do you have?

Dishes and home furnishings

April has a glass set of dishes for family dinners, and a plastic set that is stored further down.

Extra dish sets, commemorative glasses, etc.

Saren has a set of 16 plates from Ikea in a classic white pattern, and all match and are able to be replaced when they break.

Thick tumbler style glasses seem sturdy enough to be able to withstand most falls and have worked well. When we just need a drink, grab an odd commemorative glass, so that the matching tumblers are available for family meals.

Alice Fulton “It's Here Somewhere” is another great and deeper resource. This podcast is just touching the surface.

We end up accumulating furniture as well, so say goodbye to the unnecessary so that the necessary can speak. Perhaps this principle affects us as deliberate mothers as well—creativity, energy and happiness seem to grow in spaces that are not cluttered. It takes space to live. When you have a lot of stuff you are not only visually feeling impaired, spiritually and emotionally, but you are also physically running into things. Life is not functional there.

Two generations ago the problem was the lack of provisions. In our day, the hyped up consumerism has provided us with the exact opposite problem. This is equally a huge problem. When we have figured out how many shirts, how many toys, how much furniture do we really need, we can have space to live. You will be able to function better. You feel such a lift when things are organized and uncluttered. Think

and save the things that bring joy to you. Pass on those things that just take up space and you can bring joy to others.

It is worth investing time and money into making your home beautiful and organized and functional. When beautiful spaces are depicted, it seems that the greatest hallmark is the lack of clutter and items in the background. Donny Osmond Home decorates things simply and uncluttered. It helps to focus on the beautiful things.

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