

Family Activities

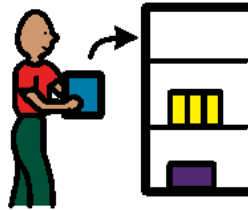


School Readiness Skill: Helps put away toys or clothes

Providing preschool children with opportunities to put away their toys and clothes at home can help these tasks to become second nature to them once they start kindergarten where they will be expected to help with related classroom chores.

Everything Has a Place

Parents can make it easy for their child to put away his or her belongings by labeling shelves and drawers to help him or her learn where everything belongs. Make drawings or have your child cut out pictures from magazines of items that go with each of their belongings. Affix the pictures to the shelves or containers and label them with words.



Clean Up Song

Put a little jazz into clean up time by singing the catchy tune below. This will make for a more enjoyable experience.

Sung to the Tune of *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*

"This is the way we pick up our toys,

Pick up our toys, pick up our toys.

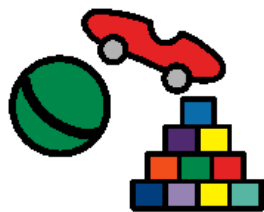
This is the way we pick up our toys,

So early in the morning."



You can substitute the word "toys" with things such as clothes, books, etc.

Clean Up Time is Fun Time



Children often associate clean up time as a chore that is boring. You can help make this an enjoyable experience by making a game of it. For example, you might say “Let’s play the Clean Up Game. Let’s start by putting away all of the red toys.” Once your child has successfully put away the red toys you can then encourage him or her to move on to the next category. “Can you find all of the things that are blue and put them where they belong?” Continue the game by selecting different categories of items you want your child to put away. Be sure to offer plenty of praise for a job well done.


Race the Clock

Set a timer and encourage your child to race the clock as he or she puts away their belongings. Start off by setting it for a longer time period such as 15 minutes. As your child begins to master the task successfully you can decrease the amount to 10 minutes or smaller time intervals.



Clean Up Chart

Make a cleanup chart or use the example provided with this family print activity. You can place a sticker or draw a happy face each time he or she cleans up their belongings on their own.

My Clean Up Chart 

My name is _____

I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	
I put away my things.	

