

Getting It All Together

I'm not sure if I will ever have it all together.

Don't knock on my door before calling anytime soon or you will be treated to toys on the floor, boxes from my latest efforts to organize my storage space and books spread across my bar and deep freeze from our homeschool day. It never seems straight at first glance. Living in such a small space with so many people always provides its share of challenges....making everything look neat would have to top the list.

We have, however, figured out some "tools of the trade" that keep us fairly organized. We generally don't forget dates, there are no late fees on our library books, my husband always knows my schedule and I generally know his (he travels a lot so he has a tendency to change last minute).

There is much more written on this subject at www.TheVirtuousWoman.com, but here we are going to address the most important tools every homeschool mom needs.

A planner is probably the most important tool. There are many to choose from in an office supply store and usually in your local Wal-Mart. You might even choose to make your own in a three ring binder. However you decide to do it, this important item will change your life.

A fridge calendar is also a MUST for homeschooling families! Write EVERY date on it... Dad's, Mom's and all the children. Even repeating dates such as lessons or scouts should be written here. I know some Moms who have taken this a step further and color coded their calendars...black ink for Dad, red ink for Mom, green ink for kids. Or, they might use black ink for all repeating dates; church, scouts, and lessons, red for birthdays and holidays, blue for special outings, and green for business travels.

Once a week, usually on Monday mornings, we try to have "The Lambert Family board meeting". With a calendar in hand, we review each event of our schedule for the coming week. It's very rare we ever have a scheduling conflict.

I'm on a very tight budget so you won't see anything here that costs very much!

With that in mind, the next most important tool is: a notepad (preferable one with post-it notes)

and a good pack of quality, #2 pencils. I am constantly having to make myself notes....Jacob needs additional help in Geography, I need to mail a letter to Christy, etc. With a notepad, I always have somewhere to write these things down.

A To-Do List. This can actually go on the above mentioned notepad. A homeschool mom must always have a plan for her day. If nothing else, just a brief 5 things you want to accomplish should be listed.

The most important tool is your Bible. A Bible in hand (and used, I might add!), a Mom can teach history, find refreshment, encourage her husband, discipline her children and manage a home in a way that will bring honor to the Father.

You may have other ideas to include with the above list. Change it and make it your own. I've tried to stay very basic. Managing a home is neither expensive nor complicated. It's important to remember that if the Lord blessed us with a family, He'll provide the resources to care for it. Trust in Him and put these tools to work for you...let them be your first step in "Getting It All Together"!