

Chore Training Boot Camp!

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This is short, sweet and easy! Children should be taught to do chores. It's that short. It's that simple!

Why should children do chores? There are so many reasons, we'll address a couple of biggies here.

Children must help around their home. Without this, they will really never have respect for their home and won't care much about picking up after themselves.

Children must help around the home because it will instill in them a "team spirit" that will live on in them. They will know not just that they are loved, but that they serve a purpose in their home...they can help! It is true! Many hands make work light.

You will be doing your children a favor by teaching them chores from a young age. It will be much easier for them to learn these necessary skills now rather than when they are older.

You need to remember, you are the manager of your home! If you are finding it difficult to maintain your home and homeschool, duplicate yourself! Teach your children to do the things they are capable of so that you can do the things they aren't capable of doing.

I promised short and sweet!

Four steps to chore training:

- ❖ Pray! And make a list of the things in your home each of your children can do!
- ❖ One chore at a time, let the children watch you do the job!
- ❖ Let the child do the job while you oversee and give loving correction.
- ❖ Let child do it themselves.

The best part is....**IT'S FREE!** No chore charts, no bribes, no stressed out moments wondering how you're going to get it all done!

This is the chore layout for my family (as of 2005):

- ❖ Courtney (14) Loads the washer, in charge of kitchen cleaning jobs...fridge, changing drip pans, mopping organizing our food supplies. She is also Benjamin's buddy. She helps him to get dressed in the morning, put his shoes on when we go out and hold his hand when we are in public.
- ❖ Joshua (11) In charge of the living room: vacuuming, polishing furniture, cleaning glass, etc. He's also Matthew's buddy. He makes sure he puts his clothes away

- properly and brushes his teeth. He is currently teaching Jacob how to wash dishes and sweep the kitchen floor after our evening meal.
- ❖ Jacob(10) is in charge of bathrooms (I still Clorox the toilets...YUCK!). He shakes mats, wipes down sinks and countertops and cleans mirrors. We're still working on scrubbing the tub! He's in charge of cleaning and feeding his bird, Perch and feeding and changing the water for my fish, Mr. Whitman. He's Timothy's buddy. He puts away his laundry, helps him with his shoes when we are going out and holds his hand when we are in public. After dinner each night, he is learning to wash dishes and sweep the floor.
 - ❖ Jessica(8) is in charge of the laundry area. She keeps it clean and neat so that we can get laundry done and get to the supplies we need easily. She also puts laundry away each day after it is folded. After dinner, she's responsible for washing down the appliances. She also unloads our dishes from the dishwasher.
 - ❖ Matthew(6) is in charge of our hallways. He picks up toys that have been left in the floor, and vacuums. He's also in charge of unloading the dryer (when we use it) and washing the table and high chair after meals.
 - ❖ Timothy(4) cleans our kitchen playset up...he's also learning to wash the table after evening meals. He brings all trash cans to the kitchen to be emptied on trash day.
 - ❖ Benjamin(2) is great at running errands! At barely 2, he takes diapers to the trash, brings fresh diapers and takes dirty clothes to the hamper.
 - ❖ Emma(very young!) Her only job is to look cute! It's a tough job but she does it very well!

One thing to remember:

Don't feel guilty! I've heard all the comments... "you're turning your children into slaves, etc.". No, I'm preparing them for life. My 14 year old can easily run my home by herself...so can my 11 year old. They are teaching their younger siblings new skills each day. It works very well and our lifestyle is better for it. I'm not spending my time wiping off tables, instead, I can make lesson plans. I'm not vacuuming, I'm meal planning so my family can enjoy delicious and nutritious meals. We ate a lot of fast food when I was trying to do every thing by myself.

Duplicate yourself, duplicate yourself, duplicate yourself!