

Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown

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WEEK 7: CHORES AND LIFE SKILLS

Work is GOOD. God wants us to work. Every member of your family age 2 and up should have SOME chore they are responsible for.

Stages — Watching, Learning, Apprenticeship, Mastery

But the house serves YOUR FAMILY, not the other way around. There will be messes. Homeschooling is complicated and learning involves hands-on projects. Having what you need for teaching means more stuff. (Proverbs 14:4)

Does your family value simplicity? Or resourcefulness?

Avoid the comparison trap. (Romans 14:4)

The goal is not necessarily a clean house. It is giving your kids a place to “cut their teeth” on life skills and responsibility. What things do you do now that need to be learned by your kids before they are out on their own? What is your plan to teach these skills?

Should kids be paid?

Allowances vs. earning money vs. “because we live here”

How will you communicate these responsibilities? How will you enforce or excuse follow-through?

Chore cards, Chore charts, 3x5 cards. MANY systems.

On Week 9, we will be discussing *For the Children's Sake* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. See the link in the comments for ordering information from Amazon, which will benefit me as an Amazon affiliate.

Resources:

YouTube “Dad, How Do I?”

A series of videos for teens and young adults to learn how to do everyday maintenance jobs on cars, around the house, even cooking and tying a tie

<https://www.youtube.com/@DadhowdoI>

The Erskine Family

Separate PDF downloadable booklets for girls and boys about “Home Skills”

<https://homemakersmentor.com/> (need to use the menu bar at the left)

Marla Cilley

She maintains a website dedicated to helping people develop healthy mindsets and habits regarding home management, and has published books too.

<http://www.flylady.net/>

Don Aslett

He has his own cleaning company and has written numerous books giving instructions for how to declutter and then clean efficiently.

Dana K. White

Dana considers herself a reformed slob and has written a blog (and several books) to encourage others in their attempts at making a house a home.

<https://www.aslobcomesclean.com/>

Kim Brenneman

She is a homeschooling mom from Iowa who decided to write a book for her own kids. It ended up getting published, and then going out of print, hence the second edition with a new name.

Large Family Logistics: The Art and Science of Managing the Large Family.
and

Home Management: Plain and Simple.

Pam Young and Peggy Jones

“We change lives with 3x5’s” *Sidetracked Home Executives*, 1981

This was the first home organization book I ever read and embraced. Others took their cues from it, and built on this foundation. I used the system with limited success before kids. But the concepts in it helped me reframe how I thought about chores in general.

Card A

Kitchen Duty:

- Empty the dishwasher
- Load the dishwasher
- Sweep (as needed)
- Wipe the table

N&A: Wash pots and pans too

- Mon: Get YOUR stuff from EVERYWHERE
- Tues: Clean microwave, wipe down stove top
- Wed: Sweep the whole kitchen GOOD
- Thurs: Clean front of appliances/cupboards
- Fri: Scrub kitchen sink

Ask "What else can I do to help?"

Evening:

Set the table

Card C

Clean up back bedroom

Start a load of laundry (ask mom)

Clean up stairway

N&A: Mend three items of clothing

- Mon: Get YOUR stuff from EVERYWHERE
- Tues: Organize video drawer
- Wed: Vacuum back bedroom
- Thurs: Straighten two shelves of linen closet
- Fri: Make the laundry area look nice

Ask "What else can I do to help?"

Evening:

Fold or put away laundry (ask mom)

Annika's Chores

Arrange the shoes

Fill water jugs

- Mon: Clean under the couch
- Tues: Sweep the hallway
- Wed: Help mom with the car
- Thurs: Disinfect doorknobs, etc.
- Fri: Help mom with basement floors

Ask "What else can I do to help?"

Evening:

Go on a sock hunt

Card B

Clear clutter in main areas

Straighten cushions and blankets

Hang up coats and jackets

N&A: Get wood for the woodstove (winter)

Straighten up front porch/sidewalk (summer)

- Mon: Get YOUR stuff from EVERYWHERE
- Tues: Sweep stairs going up
- Wed: Vacuum LR rug and shoe area
- Thurs: Straighten toy drawer and bookshelves
- Fri: Sweep stairs going down

Ask "What else can I do to help?"

Evening:

Clear the table and load the dishwasher

Card D

Bathroom Duty:

Clean up both bathroom floors

Quick shine the sinks

Swish the toilets

N&A: Straighten basement entryway

- Mon: Get YOUR stuff from EVERYWHERE
- Tues: Sweep both floors and empty trashcans
- Wed: De-clutter and SCRUB basement sink
- Thurs: De-clutter and SCRUB upstairs sink
- Fri: Clean BOTH toilets

Ask "What else can I do to help?"

Evening:

Help mom PREPARE for tomorrow in some way

Mom

- Mon: Clean off the kitchen island
- Mon: Straighten woodstove area/mantle decor
- Tues: Clean out the fridge
- Tues: Mop floor/shake rugs/garbage area
- Wed: Clean out my purse and the car
- Wed: Mop bathroom floors/shake rugs
- Thurs: File current paperwork and receipts
- Thurs: Front door "desk" items
- Fri: Straighten and sweep floor in basement
- Fri: Storage under stairs
- Sat: Prep for Sunday/Planner for next week
- Sat: Straighten books/choose 2 to read next

Evening:

Coordinate bath-night

Week 1

Monday

- Clean up front porch
- Clean up entryway
- Clean up shoe area
- Clean up living room
- Vacuum those three areas
- JDM Laundry — Wash/dry/fold/put away
- JDM LUNCH
- Dishes (morning)
- Dishes (evening)
- Meal Prep: _____

Week 1

Tuesday

- Kitchen — stove top
- Kitchen — microwave
- Kitchen — sweep/mop floors
- Kitchen — top of the island
- Kitchen — one cupboard
- AMM Laundry — Wash/dry/fold/put away
- AMM LUNCH
- Dishes (morning)
- Dishes (evening)
- Meal Prep: _____

Week 1

Wednesday

- Bathrooms — toilets
- Bathrooms — sink upstairs
- Bathrooms — sink downstairs
- Bathrooms — trash
- Bathrooms — floors
- JEM Laundry — Wash/dry/fold/put away
- JEM LUNCH
- Dishes (morning)
- Dishes (evening)
- Meal Prep: _____

Week 1

Thursday

- Wash/dry/fold Towels
- Finalize meal plan/grocery list
- JDM Organize your own paperwork
- AMM Organize your own paperwork
- JEM Organize your own paperwork
- Find library books/movies
- Dishes (morning)
- Dishes (evening)
- Meal Prep: _____

Week 1

Friday

- Laundry Load: Whites
- Laundry Load: Pink and Red
- Clean out the frig
- Dishes (morning)
- JDM Clear the Living Room of YOUR schoolwork
- AMM
- JEM
- Dishes (evening)
- Meal Prep: _____

Week 1

Saturday

- ENM Your bedroom — laundry/bed/floor
- JDM Your bedroom — laundry/bed/floor
- AMM Your bedroom — laundry/bed/floor
- JEM Your bedroom — laundry/bed/floor
- RMM Organize desk and paperwork
- Laundry Load: Black and Gray
- Laundry Load: Blue and Green
- Bathrooms — shower
- Kitchen — sink and counters
- Dishes (morning)
- Dishes (evening)