

Age appropriate chores for children

When a child is born, the parents are not immediately concerned about teaching them to do their chores. Rather, they are overwhelmed with the many other responsibilities that the child comes with. Raising a child to be a responsible and caring individual includes many days, weeks and even years of modeling and instilling the proper way to behave.

There are five main areas of **child development:**

- Physical development
- Social and emotional
- Knowledge and understanding
- Reasoning and problem solving
- Communication and language

Each child is at a different stage in their development and depending on their abilities, a parent can guide the child when it comes to chores. A parent is the best person to assign the appropriate chores.

Chores in General

“Chores” is not a favorite word for most children. In fact they seem to do a good job of ignoring it! How can parents effectively boost a child’s enthusiasm for daily duties? I remember having an immaculate mother, who preferred to do all the housework herself so it was done perfectly. That was all well and good until I had my own home to run. I realized that I had not been taught how to do the housework the way my mother did and it became a real burden for me. My mother did let me dust the furniture and that is my least favorite duty now. I’m sure we all have different memories of our childhood regarding chores.

Start out Slowly

It is best to start the child with one or two chores, if they are not used to doing them. It may take numerous reminders and lots of praise. There are many charts with **age-appropriate chores**, which can help parents be aware of what children can do at different stages of their development.

When children are very young, doing simple chores can be more like playing a game. You show them how to put their toys in the toy box. When they do it right, you make a big deal out of it, cheering them on as they happily repeat the task over and over - until one day they tire of it. If only they could continue on a daily basis doing their chores without continually reminding and praising them.

Create a Chore Chart for Your Kids

A **chores list for kids** can be useful and many are available online. Parents can create a simple one that the children can look at every day to remind them what they need to do before playing. Make sure you put their names near the chores they are able to do. Using stickers or colorful markers can be an added incentive to make doing their chores more worthwhile and to reinforce good behavior.

A great family activity would be making a **chore charts for kids** together. Instead of all the burden of keeping it current being left up to the mothers, children can volunteer for what they are able to do and suggest how to decorate the chart. Most parents can remember when they were young and can make suggestions of the chores they were given to do. Have a bit of brainstorming and then decide if your child is capable of doing a good job without much assistance. Have them decorate the chart and then place it in a spot where they will readily see it - perhaps on the refrigerator or cupboard door.

To Reward or Not

Another issue is giving rewards for chores or not. Many children today feel entitled because their friend down the block gets paid to do their chores. Children should be taught when young that part of being in a happy family is helping one another and sharing in the duties and assignments given them. If you start giving them money for doing their chores, they may decide they need a raise. If you give them an allowance, part of it can be completing their chores in a responsible fashion.

Expectations

The main chores in the household revolve around keeping things clean and maintaining a healthy organized environment to live in. Children are capable of doing many things, so they should be given the opportunity to learn how to keep their own rooms tidy and organized at the very least, and then sharing in the household chores as delegated to them. Help them take pride in their ability to finish a job completely. The more they can learn while they are young, the better prepared they will be when they are on their own.

Be Consistent

The hardest thing in **raising successful kids** is being consistent. Once you let them off from their responsibilities, they will be looking for more excuses to get out of them. **Teaching responsibility** is one of the best gifts you can give your children. It will strengthen them and produce a chore savvy and helpful individual.

Show Rather Than Tell

Train up a child by showing them rather than telling them what you expect. Teach them what a complete job entails and show them what it looks like. You can include in the chore chart the steps it takes to finish the job to completion. Be sure to consider their age and abilities when assigning their chores. After they have shown you that they are proficient in one chore, you can then assign them one that is a little more challenging. Take into consideration how busy they are at school and other activities so they have a reasonable amount of time to finish their chores.

One day they will lovingly thank you for having taught them the value of doing their chores. Just don't expect it anytime soon! Show love, patience, and appreciation.

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