

Chores 4 Kids

1. Become a Spy and Thief

Watch for moms that rock this whole parenting and homeschooling thing.

“Steal” their best tips and practices and pally them to your own family

2. Chores: Start SMALL

Goal: Cheerful Team Attitude

Cleanliness and speed come with practice

3. Start over (or begin) with elders

Have a meeting with older children and let them know you are starting over

4. PRAISE publicly

Take every opportunity to be “caught” by your kids praising their attitude and help at home. They are your VIP’s

About Chores

Yes, my children do chores.

I have had quite a few people ask me about chores since I first posted about our boys and chores.

As promised here are the gorey details:).

I have 5 boys ranging from 12 years old to 24 at the time of this writing. The four younger boys still live at home.

I simply **can't do it** all with so many people in our family. We are a team.

My job is to train my children to be proficient in all areas of life, and that includes basic housework.

When the boys are young, they require a LOT of supervision and training and retraining.

AS they approach their teenage years, they are **more than capable** of doing all the things listed below.

Since I have so many children, and we homeschool we have made the choice to incorporate teamwork and chores into our daily routine.

The following chores are divided amongst all the kids. They each have 4-6 chores each and every day (except Sunday).

We each spend about an hour (the big kids might "work" an hour and a half or two hours).

Couple of Guidelines:

- Children are not servants! My job is to train them to be diligent at everything they do, including cleaning up behind themselves and helping the house stay in order.
- If they take it out, **they put it back.** This simple clean up rule makes a huge difference. From the time they can pull a toy out of a basket, I "help them" put the toy back when they are done. Over the years they learn to clean up after themselves. As they get older, they have to clean up one thing before they pull out another.
- At least once a year I try to purge toys and clothes. If kids have way too much, it's really hard to keep it all clean and organized!
- Although the chores are theirs, I am right beside them working. We crank up music and try to beat songs and we work quickly so we can get on with our day!

Master Chore List:

I use this master list to pick, choose and assign chores for my five sons.

- Bedroom: Make beds and straighten top of dresser, clean floor of closet and room, books away, put laundry in its place, throw away trash.
- Car: empty all trash and belongings
- Customers yard work (teenagers do yard work for customers)
- Deep Clean Bedroom: refold all clothes and straighten drawers, dust windowsill, dust top of dresser and all trophies etc, dust blinds, clean windows, wipe all switches, clean under bed, organize closet, wipe room/closet doors, dust pictures, file stray papers, wipe off bed frame, wipe baseboards, wipe walls
- Deep Clean Dining room: cleaning off table, wiping & drying table and chairs, setting and clearing table for meals, wiping off window sills, cleaning windows, dusting blinds, dust pictures, cleaning doors (inside & out), wipe light switches, baseboards
- Deep clean Living room & Entry: straighten bookshelves, put extras in their place, dust; bookshelves, pictures, clock, window sills, wipe off sofas and chair, wipe arms of chair, wipe light switches, dust; tv (and back), entertainment unit, clean glass on unit, baseboards, organize, fold and store blankets, clean front door and front window and window by chair
- Deep clean Master bedroom: Straighten bookshelves, dust bookshelves and pictures, dust end-tables and lamps, wipe down bike and stairmaster, wipe switches, baseboards, clean chair, wipe bench
- Deep Clean Master Bathroom: empty trash, wipe counters and toilet, change hand towels, clean mirror, scrub tub and surrounding tile, toys away, dust window sills, water plants, wash wreath, clean under cabinets, Scrub shower, tub walls, shower doors (dry doors), scrub toilet, sweep floor & mop
- Deep Clean School area: clean off top shelf and dust, empty sharpener, wipe off board, wipe light switch, put everything into its place, wipe shelves, dust armour and picture
- Dining room : cleaning off table, wiping & drying table and chairs, setting and clearing table for meals
- Dog: Feed and water, brush 30 minutes, clean up hair
- Fans: dust all ceiling fans and heating ducts in the house
- Front floor: Sweep and mop
- Garage: bikes organized, toys in proper place, floor swept,
- Hallway: wipe closet door, clean closet, baseboards, dust pictures and thermostat
- Kitchen Duty+ Clean Refrigerator inside and out (Kitchen Duty includes: dishes, counters, comet sink, cooking/helping all meals, sweeping floor, empty trash, scrub trash can, baseboards)
- Kitchen Duty+Clean Microwave Inside and Out (Kitchen Duty includes: dishes, counters, comet sink, cooking/helping all meals, sweeping floor, empty trash, scrub trash can, baseboards)
- Kitchen Duty+Scrub under burners, clean oven inside and out (Kitchen Duty includes: dishes, counters, comet sink, cooking/helping all meals, sweeping floor, empty trash, scrub trash can, baseboards)
- Laundry Captain: wash laundry, Sort into piles, fold, hang up, and put away
- Laundry: fold, hang up, and put away
- Living room: blankets away and everything put in its place
- Mow front yard, hose off BBQ
- Projects
- Sweep back patio
- Trash cans from curb
- Trash cans to curb
- Vacuum living and dining room
- Vacuum: all carpet in house
- weed (30 minutes)
- Wipe Front Bathroom: empty trash, wipe counters and toilet, change hand towels, clean mirror
- Wipe (Disinfectant wipes) Master bathroom: empty trash, wipe counters and toilet, change hand towels, clean mirror, straighten magazines
- Wood/fireplace: Fill wood inside, Straighten newspaper and bark basket, Stack wood neatly outside, Clean fireplace
- Yard work: cut back yard, edging

More examples

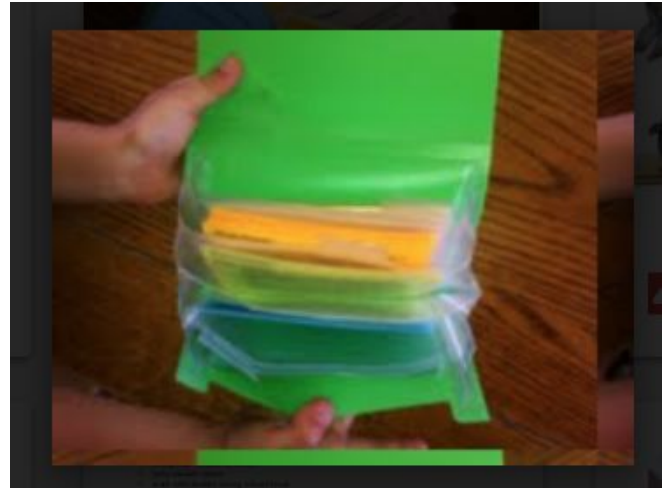
When the chores were being done by our youngest 3

	Isaac	Sam	Stephen
Sun	Room Tidy/ Kids Bath	Room Tidy/ Master bath kitchen team	Room Tidy/ Office bath laundry captain kitchen team
Mon	Room Tidy/Master bath Dining room/ School Cubby Family Room vacuum up Dinner Chef	Room Tidy/ Office bath laundry captain Bonus room/ vacuum up Kitchen L/D	Room Tidy/ Kids Bath Living room/ Hallway Kitchen B/D vacuum up Cars
Tues	Room Tidy/ Office bath laundry captain Bonus Room Dining Kitchen B/D	Room Tidy/ Kids Bath Living room/ Hallway Dinner Chef Cars	Room Tidy/ Master bath Dining room/ School Cubby Family Room Kitchen L/D
Wed	Room Tidy/ Kids Bath Living room/ Hallway Kitchen B/D Cars mop downstairs vacuum Down	Room Tidy/ Master bath Dining room/ School Cubby/Family Room Laundry captain Kitchen B/D vacuum Down	Room Tidy/ Office bath Bonus room Dining Room Dinner Chef Kitchen L vacuum Down
Thurs	Room Tidy/Kids Bath Blower Bonus room Dinner Chef Yard work	Room Tidy/Office bath Laundry captain Bonus Room Dining room/ School Cubby Kitchen L/D Yard work	Room Tidy/Master bath Trash cans Living room Hallway Family Room Kitchen B/D Yard work/ Cars
Fri	Room Tidy Family Room Master bath Deep Kitchen Team Laundry captain	Room Tidy Kids Bath Deep Living room/ Hallway School cubby Kitchen Team Cars	Room Tidy Office bath Deep laundry captain Bonus Room/ Dining Room trash cans Kitchen Team
Sat	Room Tidy/ Kids Bath Kitchen Team	Room Tidy/Office bath Kitchen Team	Room Tidy/ master bath Dining Room Kitchen Team

Micah: Make your bed daily. Pitch in where you see a need.

Color coded and laminated chore cards.

We ran chores like this for a few years when the boys were little



See our chore cards here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9zcFE_YP_GHaSVg4TmxNVXBla00/view?usp=sharing

Current Chore Chart

I have a magnetic chore chart.
The breakdown of chores are on the following pages:)

Isaac		Sam		Stephen	
Kitchen - B		Kitchen - A		Kitchen C	
Master Bath	F	Office Bath	F	Downstairs	
Dust	W	Vacuum-down	Th	Trash / Cars	
Sweep stairs	Th	Deck Back	F	Kids Bath	
Porch - front	Th	laundry Captain		Vacuum-up	
laundry		Bedroom / bonus		Driveway - blow	
Bedroom / bonus				laundry	
Mop	F			Bedroom / bonus	

Micah		All	
Adulting 😊		* Do something for someone else.	
• See Need - fill a need		* Keep areas neat	
• leave no trail		* chores done by 9 ³⁰	
• Bedroom 😊			

Kitchen	
Rinse dishes - load	A
Hand wash pans, dry + put away	A
Food Away	B
Counters wiped	B
Rugs - shakeout	B
Sweep Kit / Dining	B
Dishwasher / chef	C

Projects (for Teenagers):

1. clean and purge attic (90 minutes at a time)
2. sort and condense garage bins (90 minutes at a time)
3. Empty under pool table, sweep, reorganize (until done)
4. paint baseboards (90 minutes at a time)
5. paint house trim (90 minutes at a time)
6. Split wood (yes, I said split wood!)
7. Clean gutters (90 minutes at a time)

Like I said, We have 5 boys. **We do not expect them to slave away each day**, but rather work together as a team to contribute to the home.

As they grow, we see manhood shining through their character. They are stronger than most boys their age and not afraid to sweat. I am confident that they will be the kind of men you would want your daughters to marry.

While that may not occur to you right now, we have spent years training our boys to be strong, diligent, men of God.

They are each *all boy*.

They laugh, play, wrestle, joke around, and pull their weight.

Do your kids do chores?

Chore List



Train, Practice, Reinforce the Positive

Kitchen Chores-

You will hold this chore for a solid month, then you will rotate to the next kitchen position

Rinse dishes, load dishwasher	A
Hand wash, dry, and put AWAY pots and pans	A
Food Put AWAY	B
Counters wiped	B
Rugs Shake out	B
Floors swept	B
Dishwasher empty when clean	C
Dinner helper/chef	C

Laundry Captain:

Keep laundry cycling through machines. When it's dry, everyone folds and puts it away.

Chore List



Train, Practice, Reinforce the Positive

Youngest Son

Kitchen-C

Downstairs clean and tidy

Trash emptied Daily

Trash to curb and back Th/F

Kids bathroom Daily wipe down/ Deep clean Sat.

Vacuum upstairs Th

Laundry helper Daily

Bedroom Daily

Bonus room Daily

Second Youngest Son

Kitchen-A

Office Bathroom daily wipe down/ deep clean Sat

Vacuum downstairs Th

Deck Swept/blown/ neatened up F

Laundry Captain

Bedroom Daily

Bonus room Daily

Chore List



Train, Practice, Reinforce the Positive

Third Youngest Son

Kitchen- B

Master Bathroom daily wipe down/ deep clean F

Sweep stairs Th

Mop downstairs

Porch Swept/blown/ chairs wiped Th

Laundry Helper

Bedroom Daily

Bonus room Daily

Fourth Youngest/Oldest child at home

Bedroom

See a need, fill a need