

Organize Right Now!

The solution for your home, your office, your life...

Ten Great Back-to-School Ask-the-Organizer Tips as heard on the Joy of Organizing Radio Show

From Darcy Munzer, www.organize4u.net

1. Have the children review their backpack with Mom and put them by the door after dinner or before bedtime. Include gym bags, musical instruments, lunch money or lunch pass, etc.

2. Have everyone's school clothing laid out TONIGHT for the next day. Use those clothing organizers that are labeled Monday - Friday if that would help.

From Paris Love, www.organizewithlove.com

3. Establish a school work area. You can convert a spare bedroom or an area of the basement, if you have one. This area should only be used for school work.

4. Invest in a binder with colored tabs. Use one tab for each subject, for example, green for social studies.

From Bonnie Joy Dewkett, www.thejoyfulorganizer.com

5. When starting to organize a kid's room, first get down to their level to see what they see. Can they reach the shelves? Can they lift the bins?

6. Play music during clean up time to make it fun. Set a timer so there is an end. Doing a ten minute tidy every day to get things back into place will keep a room cleaner for longer.

From Britt Morris, www.atidysolution.com

7. Do as much preparation the night before. Pack lunches, choose school clothes, and get the kids belongings in a place where they can check them and then run out the door.

8. Keep clear containers of kid friendly snacks and drinks down low in a designated spot in the cabinets or refrigerator. The kids will be able to grab a parent approved snack when they need it, and won't be bothering Mom or Dad when they are hungry.

From Lea Schneider, www.organizerightnow.com

9. Get organized in the bathroom for smoother mornings. Each child should have their own supplies in their own basket or drawer so there isn't any fighting over products. Add a clock and mark with a sticker the time they need to be ready. If they tend to forget steps, add a check-off list to the back of the door on a dry-erase board.

10. Eliminate carpool squabbles to school or events by rotating the "shotgun" seat in a permanent manner. For example, if you have two children, swap assign even and odd days or three children, divide by days 1-10, 11-20, and 21-30.