

Establishing the Systems and Routines That Create the Very Best Family Style Learning Environment

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Let's face it, you're busy...really busy! Between laundry, shopping, transporting, cooking, cleaning, church responsibilities and extra-curricular activities, adding your children's education to the list can feel like an overwhelming and daunting responsibility.

The key to effectively managing all of your different responsibilities is to create effective systems, routines and schedules.

You can learn proven strategies, gain valuable insights and implement tools and resources that will not only save you precious time, but also help to insure that things will get done in their proper order and will help to create a stress-free atmosphere of learning and growth.

Food

- *Meal Board App* (amazing app that will change your meal planning forever).
- Each child has meal prep and clean up for one day of the week (mom or dad usually helps with meal prep and clean up and has a one-on-one interview with that child for that week).

Laundry

- Norton Family Style Laundry Room
- Sort by size, gender and season, not by person.
- Eliminate rotation when kids grow out of clothes or when the season changes.
- Using robes instead of towels.
- Contain as much clothing to one room as possible.

Chores/Family Economy

- Read *Whistle While You Work* by James Jones
- Use *Wunderlist App* for daily workflow
- Children don't respect what you don't inspect

Privileges

- Be consistent with the different privileges your children have at different ages and stages.
- Use *"The Phases of Responsibility"* (spreadsheet that delineates the skills and privileges associated with different developmental ages).

Family Schedule

- Read *Managers of Their Homes* by Steven and Teri Maxwell
- Create a "Flow of the Day" poster

Travel

- Be ready to travel at the drop of a hat
- Think about what you'll need before you need it.
- Replace suitcases with stackable Tupperware.
- The wonderful collapsible Wagon (best travel tool ever).

Important Information (Evernote/Blog)

- Take pictures with your smart phone of important receipts and papers and store them in your mobile device so you can have access to them at a touch of a button.
- Replace scrapbooking with mobile blogging to keep track of all of the memorable moments and milestones.

