

Homeschooling Meets Housekeeping

*Principles of home organization in light of the
challenge of the kids being home all day*



I love homeschooling!



Are you called to homeschool?

- ◆ Are you Jeremiah and Daniel, or Mulek and Lehi?
- ◆ Doctrine and Covenants 64:33
- ◆ Looks different for every family
- ◆ Phillippians 4:13 **I can do all things** through [Christ](#) which [strengtheneth](#) me.

Adventure in homeschool will thrive or dive based on...

- 1) Obedience and discipline
- 2) Home management
- We must learn to manage both
- Doctrine and Covenants 64:34

The Key to Feeling Successful

- ◆ A plan
- ◆ Helpers
- ◆ Most important curriculum of all
- ◆ Law of the harvest

Overview of material

- 💧 WHY
- 💧 WHAT
- 💧 HOW

WHY: how learning to clean helps them now

- ◆ Stewardship: an eternal principle
- ◆ Heart for service
- ◆ Obedience
- ◆ Responsibility, diligence, perseverance, thoroughness
- ◆ Idleness: “I’m bored” syndrome

...continued

- ◆ Cleaner, more orderly home
- ◆ Hospitality
- ◆ If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy
- ◆ Appreciation for mom and her sacrifices
- ◆ Mom as manager, not slave
- ◆ Family is able to homeschool

...continued part 2

- ◆ Mini-farm: dream or nightmare?
- ◆ Improved family relationships
- ◆ Personal habits: your kid won't drive people nuts
- ◆ Increased happiness and confidence
- ◆ For the truly hard-core

WHY it helps them in the future

- ◆ Positive personal habits bless everything
- ◆ Future employers
- ◆ Preparation for marriage, parenthood
- ◆ Slothfulness: not a joke
- ◆ Examples



WHAT: Things to consider

Whatever you want to call it: chore chart, housekeeping plan, cleaning system, etc.

- ◆ Schedules and plans are freeing
- ◆ You *already* have a system

You have to be home sometimes

- ◆ We can't do everything
- ◆ Time must be scheduled, at home, to keep things up
- ◆ Home responsibilities become unmanageable because
 - 1) no one has identified what is a priority during cleaning time,
 - 2) no one but mom knows how to do anything,
 - 3) time hasn't been set aside to do it.

Our culture: different views

- ◆ House must be perfect
- ◆ Children as slaves
- ◆ Childhood as a time of play
- ◆ Mom's attitude
- ◆ Culture of relaxation
- ◆ We are ashamed of—and misunderstand--reality













Emotional Health

- ◆ CLUTTER
- ◆ Journey of decluttering
- ◆ Don Aslett has some great books on this
- ◆ Safe, supportive relationships are needed

PATIENCE

- ◆ Distractible
- ◆ Eye for detail
- ◆ Undeveloped characters
- ◆ Internal motivation comes as they mature
- ◆ High goals, low expectations

Divine Guidance: The Key

- ◆ Christ is full of grace and truth
- ◆ Seek and find
- ◆ Be ready to change
- ◆ Scripture references

Auntie Reba's Principles

- ◆ Clean and unhappy is not better than unclean and happy
- ◆ It is less work to keep it up than to dig out now and then
- ◆ Clutter is your enemy
- ◆ Out-of-control environments influence out-of-control behavior
- ◆ A place for everything, and everything in its place
- ◆ Routines and lists save time and mental energy

Principles (continued)

- ◆ Magic time in wasted moments
- ◆ Inspect what you expect
- ◆ Children need: age-appropriate tasks, correct teaching, right tools, and follow up.
- ◆ Most important: Meals, dishes, laundry

“Cleaning Time”

The problem with chore charts

“Family Work” or “Cleaning Time”

HOW

- ◆ Create a chore list: task, time it will take, and how often
- ◆ Outside work, garage and storage areas, and vehicle care
- ◆ New house and new circumstances require a new system
- ◆ Make sure it's feasible AND achievable.

Prioritize your list

- ◆ One, Two or Three
- ◆ Who can handle this job?
- ◆ Does this person have time to do it?
- ◆ Consider family hygiene, odor, unsightly or noticeable
- ◆ Don't forget: Life is meant to be lived!

Personal Daily Tasks

Get dressed, fix hair, brush teeth, make bed, put room in order

Family Daily Tasks

Take out kitchen trash, unload dishwasher, vacuum or sweep kitchen, spot mop kitchen, wipe down three bathrooms (most used), empty dehumidifier, meal clean up, pick up living room, loft, and toy area, recycling, roll trash cans in or out as needed

Deep Cleaning Tasks

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Vacuum stair carpets (both) *Wipe down banisters, stair treads *Check glass *Wipe down computers *Polish stone counter tops *wash kitchen dish mats *mop wood floors on main floor *Do monthly jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Do bi-monthly jobs *Vacuum upstairs hallway, loft area *Mop wood floors upstairs *vacuum and dust guest bedroom as needed *check guest bath and clean as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Check glass *Vacuum front entry way, kitchen carpets, and living room *Mop vinyl floors *Clear kitchen of junk *Wipe off appliances *deep clean boy bedroom (see below) *vacuum boy bedroom *deep clean basement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Vacuum front entry way, and living room *Dust living room *Vacuum upstairs hallway, loft *Put shoes in baskets away *Vacuum stair carpets (both) *deep clean girls' bedroom *vacuum girls' bedroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wipe out microwave *Wipe out kitchen fridge, organize *Wipe down kitchen cupboards *Scrub kitchen sink *Clean kitchen jars, re-fill *Organize a kitchen cupboard *Do bi-monthly jobs *deep clean little boy bedroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thoroughly sweep kitchen *Mop hard floors *Vacuum front entry way, kitchen carpets, and living room *Wipe down basement bathroom *Vacuum basement carpets *mop basement if needed *Check glass *Clear kitchen of junk

Bi-monthly

Wipe down dining chairs
Dust dining room
Dust book shelves
Declutter homeschool room
Declutter "office" desk and bookcase
Organize laundry room
Wipe down counters and cupboards in laundry room
Wipe down washer and dryer
Clean out garage fridge
Organize freezer
Wipe down kitchen chairs, wipe under table
Dust loft, organize kids' bookshelf
Refill soaps, cleaning sprays
Organize garage, sweep
Use iron-out on something

Monthly

Organize a closet
Wipe down wood baseboards, door jambs, doors
Wipe down leather sofas
Wash walls in stairwell, spot clean basement walls
Glass on basement door
Dust bar area, TV, fireplace
Organize DVDs
Organize storage room
Wipe down garage door, front and back, and front door
Wipe down walls in kitchen area
Check for burned out light bulbs
Wash pillows
Change furnace filters
Organize toy baskets
Dust pictures
Toothbrushes in dishwasher
Wash out trashcans
Pick up debris in yard

Tips and hints for success

- ◆ A good morning starts the night before
- ◆ Meal plans are your friend
- ◆ Add a separate set of tasks for times you gather
- ◆ Doesn't matter when you clean, just do it
- ◆ Pick up bedrooms every night before bed, “clean” them once a week
- ◆ The right tools are essential!

Continued...

- ◆ Systems for catching and holding clutter
- ◆ Keep little ones busy while you work with older kids
- ◆ Make the work a social experience: try teamwork!
- ◆ What you wear affects how you feel and behave
- ◆ Break jobs down to prevent “frozen kid” syndrome
- ◆ Is my space functional?
- ◆ Cleaning class!

...and still more...

- ◆ Time yourself
- ◆ Zones
- ◆ Write expectations or steps as a reminder, place in area
- ◆ Positive role models--for you!

A few of Auntie Reba's tips

- ◆ Laundry storage
- ◆ Dots on clothes
- ◆ White towels
- ◆ Sheet and linen storage
- ◆ Cleaning tool belts

Laundry Lockdown



Dots on clothes



White linens



Bed linen storage



Cleaning tool belt



Question One: I have a big cleaning project to do. Help!

- ◆ Small children must be kept safe, happy, and busy
- ◆ Clear your schedule
- ◆ Work for 20-30 minutes at a time with your other children, set a timer
- ◆ Utilize early mornings, late evenings, husbands, friends, whatever you can get

Question Two: Cooperation from the uncooperative

- ◆ Consider their gender and personality
- ◆ Make sure your attitude doesn't bleed through
- ◆ Give them the "why"
- ◆ Gentle persuasion, not anger and frustration
- ◆ Teach, supervise, inspect, the right tools
- ◆ Include Dad
- ◆ Consequences?



Examine your problem

- ◆ Obedience? Ability? Training? Tools? Follow up?
- ◆ Poor systems
- ◆ Non-functional space
- ◆ Consistency, consistency, consistency
- ◆ Is it...you?



Feel free to ask questions

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