

Great Escape: Everything in Its Place



Since most moms admit they feel most relaxed when their house is clean and organized, we asked professional organizer Randy Wickstrom of Purple Durple Organizers in Beach Park for his best home organizing tips.

"If you can maximize a minute, it will save you an hour later," Wickstrom says. "Some of the principles and methods of getting organized, they take a little effort, but the rewards are phenomenal."

Family Planning Calendar

Wickstrom strongly suggests that every family keep a family planning calendar on the refrigerator or somewhere where everyone can see it.

"Have your child pick out the color of highlighter they want their activities to be in," Wickstrom says. "It teaches younger people how to plan their time and can balance the whole month."

Teach Your Children How to Stay Organized

Wickstrom believes that if we teach our children how to stay neat and orderly, we're instilling these values in them to continue in the future while helping keep our homes organized.

"I suggest a 'toy jail,'" Wickstrom explains. "After the child learns that responsibility of putting things away, the punishment if they don't is to confiscate one of their toys and put it in toy jail. If they do a little chore, they can get the toy back."

He also says that each child should put their clothes away in their own hampers and know how to dress themselves. Shelves, he says, are easier than drawers for children to access their belongings.

A Place for School Papers

Wickstrom also suggests that moms purchase three ring binders with clear plastic sheet protectors for each child's school papers.

Artwork

Every mother's refrigerator piles up with artwork, and it's impossible to throw these treasured works in the garbage, but Wickstrom suggests that every week or month, you hold a show and tell for your child to show off his prized pieces. Afterwards, you ask him to keep one or two pieces that he really likes for his memory box.

He also says you can take digital photographs of the artwork before throwing it away. This way you can also email those pictures to grandparents.

Wickstrom's company Purple Durple Organizers has been a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers since 2005. He has also worked with the A&E television series Hoarders. More information about Wickstrom and home organization can be found at www.purpleduprleorganizers.com.

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