



Part 1: Organizing your child's room starts with positive thinking

February 9, 2:31 PM [Get Organized Examiner](#) [Vicki Hancock](#)

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Before: Chances are your child doesn't like the mess, either!
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Here's a perfect opportunity to recruit your children for some quality organizing time. If you start the project with a positive attitude, you both will benefit:

- Clutter will be minimized.
- Both you and your child will know where things "live."
- You'll lower the chances that the room will ever be as cluttered again as when you started.
- You'll get to know each other in a new way.

So, to tackle this task, use the following tips as guidelines:

1. Make an appointment with your child to spend some serious time on this first effort - a weekend day is probably best. Mark the family calendar, and be sure to keep the appointment. This is strong message to your child that this task is important to both of you.
2. On the appointed day, express how enthused you are that you both are working together to create a better place for your child's homework, private time, and sleeping space. Then, treat your child as your partner in this effort. Ask what's most important, what's causing problems, what's already working well. You may even want to take some "before" pictures to compare later.
3. Start your work together on a part of the room that will bring you easy success, perhaps the closet. Unload the contents onto the bed or the floor (you may need to clear some space to work!) and begin to sort - things to keep, things to throw away, things to donate, and things that belong somewhere else. Have large plastic bags, bins, or cardboard boxes ready for the throwaways, donation, and "somewhere else" items. Replace only the "keep" items in the closet, and identify with your child where the "things that belong somewhere else" should go.
4. When you've completed this first step on the closet, be sure to admire the result - more space to find things, great job working together.
5. Find additional tips - and some useful tools - in the [About.com Housekeeping section](#).

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