



Part 2: Organizing your child's room ends with learning lifelong habits

February 10, 7:22 AM [Get Organized Examiner](#) ▾ Vicki Hancock

[Previous](#)



[Comment](#) [Print](#) [Email](#) [RSS](#) [Subscribe](#)



After: opening the space and putting away the stuff helps everyone feel better.

photo courtesy dreamstime.com

Related articles

[Getting organized is habit-forming](#)

[Organize your collections for maximum enjoyment](#)

[It's fun to get organized when you're stuck inside](#)

[Define your clutter to get organized](#)

[Quick and easy tips to organize your shoes](#)

See "[Part 1: Organizing your child's room starts with positive thinking](#)" for the rationale and early steps in this process. You and your child start with a closet for an easy win. Now you're ready to tackle other parts of the room:

1. Work your way around the rest of the bedroom, tackling one area at a time: dresser drawers, shelving, underbed storage (or hiding place for more stuff!), Repeat the sorting process, and identify the "best" places to keep the items that will remain in the room. For example, smaller children should be able to reach their most-used toys and books on lower shelves, while less-used items may be stored in plastic bins on higher shelves or in a closet. Keep like things together (books, a toy and its parts, TV/stereo equipment and the remote controls for it), and mark shelves, boxes, and bins to remind your child of what belongs where. Younger children will benefit from meaningful pictures, while older children can use just a word or two on a label.
2. When the "keepers" are back in place, agree how you will handle the throwaways, donation items, and things that belong somewhere else. Once again, admire what you've accomplished together! Take some "after" pictures, and compare to the "befores" you took earlier - what a difference!
3. Now the room is well organized again, but the work still isn't quite finished. Make an appointment with your child for the next week or two weeks. Plan to meet in the bedroom, take another look at the before and after pictures, and talk about what has changed since your work together. This is a great time to reinforce the good habits that are forming and to correct or modify the ones that haven't stuck.
4. To develop long-term habits, make a once-a-month appointment (first Saturday, for example) to spend a short time (30 minutes maximum) taking a look around the room, noting areas that need "help," and praising your child for keeping things neat and put away. If you like to give rewards, take your child out for some one-to-one time at a favorite activity. There's no need to reward with more stuff to contribute to a future mess.
5. Above all, keep the effort positive to help assure that these good habits continue!

For more tips to help your child get organized and stay organized:

- [Life Organizers](#) for a checklist of organizing steps
- [About.com](#) for pictures with ideas for kids' rooms
- [E-How](#) for organizing tips by kids' ages

Have you worked with your child to organize a messy room? Post your observations and success stories here. And, click on the "subscribe" link above to be notified of future articles.