



## **5 Easy Tips For Getting Your Kids To Help**

Getting your kids to help with the chores can be as difficult as pulling wisdom teeth. After begging and pleading, parents often give up or turn to the famous chore chart for relief. Chore charts are great... but after the newness wears off, they often become part of the clutter on the counter or fridge. Parents have to be very clever in their approach, to get kids to help cheerfully.

Kids often become over-whelmed with chores, especially if they haven't been trained how to accomplish the chore. "Go clean your room," can seem like an over-whelming task to a child, especially if the room is particularly cluttered.

Here are a few ideas I've used and found to be successful in getting my kids to help with the chores... with a little less disagreement from them. Not all of the tips will work for your family, so pick a few you feel comfortable with and see if it makes a difference.

### **15 Minute Tidy**

Set the timer on the stove. Tell the kids, "We have 10 minutes to tidy up this room. If we can do it in the time frame... we'll all go out for ice cream." "Work as fast as you can." If there's a slacker in the group, remind him that ice cream is only for the worker bees, not for the king or queen bee who doesn't help. If they finish the general pick up before the timer goes off, grab the glass cleaner and have

them clean a window, or the TV screen. *This tip worked best when I worked right along with my kids.*

### **The Penny Jar**

Toss your loose pennies into a jar. When you need a room cleaned up, tell your kids you'll pay them a penny for every item they pick up. Besides toys, etc., scraps of paper count... even the tiny ones. Have them lay out their items on the table and count them. Once the items are counted, they must be put away in the correct place for an extra ten-cent bonus. Two hundred items for \$2.00... that's a deal! *This game was especially successful with my very young children... the older kids didn't buy into it very well. They were into the "big bucks."*

### **The Dollar Door**

Hang bills inside a cupboard door...ones and fives. Attach a sticky note to each of the bills, naming an extra job your need done like, washing windows, sweeping out the garage, or mowing the lawn. These chores could be above and beyond what they are expected to do on a regular basis. When a child wants extra money for a movie etc., have them look inside the cupboard and choose a duty. *This method worked great with my older boys, who always wanted a bit of extra cash.*

### **One At A Time**

Stand in the middle of the rubble and call out one item at a time that needs to be put away. "Find all cars and put them away." "Find all the doll clothes and put them away." "Find all blankets and put them away." Soon the room is picked up in no time at all. The duties are broken down into small parts, and the child is not so over-whelmed by the task. *My two*

*little grand daughters respond very well to this tactic.*

### **Leave No Dust Behind**

Sometimes kids don't dust under and behind items. Place coins under or behind the items that must be moved, in order to do a good job. "There are two quarters hidden, so if you dust well, you will find them." They will then have to dust under and behind every items in order to find the coins." If you're lucky... your kids may dust the entire house. *My girls loved the dusting game. They would dust and dust, in order to find the amount of money I had specified.*

Getting your kids to help can be less stressful for you and fun for them if you make a game of getting the job done. On occasion, if you participate, it gets the chore accomplished faster... and with less anxiety for you and much less whining from them.

Kathryn Griffiths, Insightful Nana, is the author of [5 Power Tips Moms Use For Raising Fantastic Kids](#). More helpful articles can be found at [Insightfulnana.com](http://Insightfulnana.com), as well as great "tips and how to" for women of all ages.