

FAMILY WELLNESS

Managing & Organizing Toys

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Toys can be overwhelming. How can we manage all the "stuff" to maximize play benefits?

Managing your child's play space can be an overwhelming thought. However, taking the time to declutter their toys can help you manage what they play with. Toys quickly accumulate as children tend to receive them during holidays, birthdays, and special occasions. One way to start organizing their space is to donate what they no longer use or play with. You can enlist your child's help and use this as a time to learn what they play with and what they no longer take interest in.

The holiday season presents an excellent opportunity to eliminate excess before children get new toys. You can also get family and friends on board by giving them an idea of what your children need or suggesting experience gifts.

Once you finish sorting and donating the toys they don't use, start thinking of organizational changes to avoid cluttered play areas. Putting toys in bins and labeling them can help your children learn where items belong and where to put them when they finish playing with them.

Five Tips for Toy Organization

A step-by-step guide for simplifying your child's playroom

Find a place for everything

One way to simplify your child's playroom is to create a system by organizing their toys. You can start by sorting toys into categories. For example, you can put all wooden blocks together, all play food together, all cars together, etc. A solution for keeping it organized is finding a storage option, whether it be plastic totes or a cube organizer.

Less is more

Decluttering your child's play space is a great way to keep it organized. Many toys come with lots of parts, so it's easy to see how the play area becomes overwhelming quickly. When your child has to sort through and seek out all of the necessary toys for their play, they can lose interest quickly. Keeping the items minimal allows for better engagement in play.

Age-appropriate toys

Children learn at different stages. You can be intentional by purchasing toys that are age appropriate. Keeping age-appropriate toys in their play space can reduce clutter and allow them to continue playing with toys that aid their development.

Rotating toys

Toy rotation is an excellent solution for limiting the number of toys in your child's play space. A great way to introduce rotation is to organize your child's toys into categories and present a few categories simultaneously. For example, in one month, you can focus on building and have their blocks, train tracks, and cars in their space to play with. Later you can introduce imaginative play opportunities by getting out the pretend food, dolls, etc.

Consider donating toys

Once you organize your child's play space, you can donate the unused items to a local charity. You can also swap toys with friends and family if your children are of different ages.

This guest publication was written by Ty Nared,

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Resources

For Additional Tips

- Check out [additional tips](#) for organizing toys.
- [Start rotating toys](#) with these easy steps.
- Refer to these guides to learn about what toys are appropriate for each age.
 - [Birth through 6 years](#)
 - [6 years to 12 years](#)
- Consider learning about the [Montessori at home](#) method, a way to teach children and support their play.
- Learn the [benefits of implementing the Montessori philosophy](#) at home.

