

Doing chores helps kids develop important values and skills

In the past, children had to do their chores. With everyone doing their part, the family was able to survive.

Today's kids don't always have family responsibilities. And that's too bad. There are significant benefits for children who do chores—and those benefits also carry over into school.

Chores help children:

- Become “stakeholders.” When your child does some of the tasks that keep the household running, he makes a real investment in your home. A child who swept out the front hall is less likely to walk through it in muddy soccer cleats.
- Develop skills. Each time you give your child a new chore, he learns how to do the job and also learns skills he'll use throughout his life.
- Understand that the world doesn't revolve around them. We all know people who expect others to clean up the messes they make. Your child won't grow up to become one of those people.
- Learn to work well with others. If you have more than one child, ask them to do a chore together. Or, encourage them to create a weekly chore chart and alternate responsibilities.
- Develop self-discipline. There will be lots of things throughout your child's life that he'll need to do, even though he won't want to.
- Develop a sense of pride. If your child is responsible for doing his laundry, having a stack of clean shirts is an accomplishment. He can take pride in what he has done.
- See that they are an important part of the family. Your child will know he is helping to keep your home running smoothly.

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