

FIVE ORGANIZING TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SUCCESS!

Summer has wound down and the school year is here. Here are five back to school organizing tips to help you get a handle on things before the homework starts piling up.

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Helpful hint: For a smooth transition, make sure the whole family is on board. Kids are full of ideas, so let them participate in the organizing plan. When they have a say, they will be more likely to stick to it.

TIP #1. SMOOTH LANDINGS— Create a landing zone where you walk in the house with hooks for backpacks and jackets, space for shoes and equipment, and in/out bins or wall pockets for the flood of papers that need attention.

TIP #2. MAKE SPACE — Go through your children's clothes and extra-curricular gear and purge anything they've outgrown. Donate what you can and replace only what your child needs this coming season.

TIP #3. DON'T FALL BEHIND — If you haven't done so already, go through school work, art projects and papers from the prior year and clear out anything that is no longer wanted or needed. Pick a few (yes, just a few!) favorites and store them in a labeled container. Make items easy to identify by writing your child's name and age on the back. If you have

more than one child, use a separate container for each child with enough space to add to each year. Better yet, go digital and scan or take photos of papers and projects.

TIP #4. COLOR COORDINATE — Kids love color, so use it in their organizing systems. Color-coded storage areas, drawers and other containers are a creative way of "labeling" your kid's storage system. Let them choose their favorite color and they'll be more likely to use it.

TIP #5. MAKE IT OFFICIAL — A label on something makes it stick. Once a bin has a label that says "*Homework*" or a cubby is labeled "*Sports Gear*," those become the official homes for those items. If school and activity supplies have labeled homes there's a much better chance everyone can find what they need, when they need it and maybe even put it away when they're done. (We can hope, can't we?).

Follow these tips to get organized ahead of time and you'll be relaxed and ready for back to school success!

