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.

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.

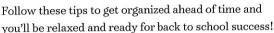
TIP #3. DON'T FALL BEHIND — If you haven't done so already, go through school work, art projects and papers from the prior year and clear out anything that is no longer wanted or needed. Pick a few (yes, just a few!) favorites and store them in a labeled container. Make items easy to identify by writing

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?).



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