

# ORGANIZATION MATTERS



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## eNEWSLETTER: May 2008



### WELCOME!

**Hello Everyone, I hope you enjoy this month's organizing and redesign ideas.**

Feel free to email me any thoughts at [patty@orderlymanor.com](mailto:patty@orderlymanor.com).

### Storage Ideas for Kids' Things

- Group tiny toys in sturdy zipper food storage bags with an external "zipper", which are easier for little fingers to manage than press-and-seal bags. Taking some puzzles or toys out of their



boxes and putting into Ziploc bags (write label on opaque area) actually saves space and maximizes storage. You can mark back of pieces with an abbreviation; attach a cutout of picture from puzzle box.

- Use flat under-the-bed boxes for extra bedding.
- Keep a clothes hamper in each child's room or closet.
- Install hooks low enough on the inside of the closet door so kids can hang up their own coats & hats.
- Try keeping a box named "Too small" & one named "Too big" on a shelf in the kids' bedroom closets.
- Switch out toys so that 1/2 total collection is out & 1/2 in storage out of

sight.

- A plastic shoe holder is a neat & inexpensive way to store small stuffed animals or toys. You can also buy plastic toy chains or hammocks to use underutilized space. Store outgrown stuffed animals in extra-large bags to prevent them from gathering dust.



- Separate containers by category & don't mix categories. Leave room in each container to grow.
- Make sure that there are plenty of places for children to put things away at a lower level that they can use without help.

- Label what goes in each container as specifically as possible. For little non-readers, use clip-art pictures, cut from catalog, scan actual item, or cut up flash-cards. If kids share a room, use their photos to label their individual items.



- Plastic tubs or nice baskets make light, sturdy flip-files for children's books.

### Books on Organizing Kids and Family

[500 Ways To Organize Your Child](#), Cheryl Carter

[70 Tips To Get Your Children Organized](#), Janet Hall

[Ages And Stages Of Getting Children Organized](#), Marcia Ramsland

[All in Good Time: Real Life Organizing Strategies for Work at Home Moms](#), Debbie Williams

[Amy Knapp's Family Organizing Handbook: 312 Mom-tested Super Tips, Tricks And Secrets to Take Care of Everything With Time Left for What Really Matters](#), Amy Knapp

[Organized Kidz](#), Debbie Williams

[Organizing Your Home & Family](#), Sandra Felton

[The Busy Mom's Guide To Getting Organized](#), Sara Pedersen

[The Parent's Success Guide to Organizing](#), Heather Dismore

[Who Got Peanut Butter on My Daily Planner?: Organizing And Loving Your Days As a Mom](#), Cindy Sigler Dagnan

[Managing Life with Kids: Simple Solutions to Organize Your Family and Home](#), Mary Walker

[The Family Manager Takes Charge: Getting on the Fast Track to a Happy, Organized Home](#), Kathy Peel

### Organizing Photos

Photo boxes are an easy storage option but it is more difficult to show off your pictures. Photos can easily fall out of order (if you choose to have them in a certain order) or destroyed from excessive handling. Photo albums make the presentation of photos fairly effortless. There are fewer chances of getting fin-



gerprints on them and pictures can be arranged (along with mementos such as invitations, ticket

stubs, etc.). The downside of putting together an album is the fact that it can be a time-consuming task.

To get started? Take the box or pile of photos, and remove all outside envelopes, paperwork, negatives (yes, toss the negatives -- you don't need them in this day and age) so you're left with just the prints. Check that there is a date on the print, or write it on the back based on

info. from your calendar or memory. Okay, now use the 2-choice approach to sort the pile — such as "keep or toss". Then from "keep" pile, do a "to album or giveaway". Continue branching out by 2's until there are no more categories. Don't worry about the storage option (box, album) until you have your pile (s) that you've sorted through and are ready to be stored.



You can organize by EVENT, (all weddings in one album, all family vacations in one separate box) by YEAR, (1978-1980) or by FAMILY MEMBER (Michael's Photo Box). Label the inside or the outside of the album/box for speedy photo retrieval.

