

WHAT IS MY JOB DESCRIPTION, ANYWAY?

Redefining the responsibilities of motherhood.

Unfortunately, it's quite commonplace to begin to feel totally trapped in the day-to-day mind-numbing monotony that's also known as motherhood. Nursing, changing diapers, warming bottles, bathing, doing laundry, picking up toys, making dinner, emptying the dishwasher, helping with homework, shopping for groceries, etc., etc., etc. But, it's extremely important that we not lose sight of our true purpose... raising grounded, well-rounded, healthy children.

As important as it may be to complete your to-do list each day, it is absolutely imperative that you spend most of your time and energy on your children. They must be your primary focus. Goal number one. And, yes, this means that your laundry may pile up and you may be tripping over toys, but your children won't remember whether or not they wore clean clothes every day... they *will* remember that you sat down on the floor with them and played cars.

That being said, you do need to find a way to maintain your household *while* you instill strong Christian values in your children, and here's how... Share the load. Let your children (and your husband) help you. As a mother, it is your charge to teach your children responsibility, ownership, self-esteem, and perseverance. So, 'kill two birds with one stone' and get creative with your chores. As long as you keep in mind that you'll be serving as 'teacher' for the first few years, you won't go crazy, you'll learn to be more patient, your children will learn valuable life skills, and your home won't suffer. In fact, for younger children, chore time really *is* quality time...

tips for teaching chores

- Set your expectations from the start. What does "clean your room" really mean? Photos of the 'finished product' can serve as handy visual reminders for young children. For more complicated tasks, you may want to have a photo or diagram that illustrates each step along the way (i.e., "How to fold a washcloth.").
- Give very specific instructions. "Pick up your toys" can be far too overwhelming a task for young children. "Let's put all the balls into this bucket" is much more manageable.
- Turn a chore into a learning game (i.e., "How many blue blocks can you find?"). If you have more than one child (and the children can handle a bit of friendly competition without getting too upset), turn a chore into a challenge (i.e., "Who can find the most cars in 2 minutes?")

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MISSION

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- Create a list of daily chores. Be sure to include both pictures and printed words. Ideas for supplies: index cards, business cards, laminated tags, photos, Velcro, pegboards, key rings, baskets, hooks, etc.
- Involve your child in the decision-making process of how and where to store their toys. This sense of ownership right from the start increases the likelihood that your child will actually maintain the final organizational system.

chores for preschoolers

- Making their beds.
- Folding washcloths.
- Sorting laundry.
- Feeding pets.
- Setting (and clearing) the table.
- Putting away groceries, clean dishes, etc.
- Preparing snacks.
- Dusting furniture.
- Cleaning windows, mirrors, etc.
- Picking up toys.

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***MICHELLE DEO**, “perfectly imperfect” mom, organizing expert, and speaker, helps overwhelmed moms, busy homeowners, and ambitious professionals learn practical time- and space-saving **ORGANIZING SOLUTIONS**.*

Her goal is to help women efficiently regain control of their environments and intentionally restore focus on their priorities... making space for the big (and little) things in life!

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