ROOM BY ROOM · BEDROOMS

How to Organize Kids' Closets

How to sort a child's closet by season so the right clothes are always within reach.

WHERE TO START

Decide first what this closet holds: clothes, off-season clothes, linens, toys, shoes or outerwear.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ☐ Boxes labeled Toss, Donate, Keep and Repairs
- ☐ Vacuum and cloth
- ☐ Bins for off-season and hand-me-downs
- ☐ Labels

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Put the time on your calendar like any other appointment. One room per session is plenty.

The method

1. **Set up four boxes**
   Label them Toss, Donate, Keep and Relocate. Every item goes into one of them, so nothing ends up in a new pile.
2. **Empty it completely**
   Take everything out and set it on a cleared table or counter. You can't organize around things you haven't seen.
3. **Clean before anything goes back**
   Wipe the shelves, drawers and surfaces and sweep the floor while the space is empty.
4. **Group like with like**
   Sort what you're keeping into families. Seeing all of one kind together shows you how much you really have.
5. **Give every family a home**
   What you use most goes closest to hand. Add containers and labels only once you know what stays.
6. **Close the session**
   Take out the trash, put the donations in your car and return every Relocate item to its room before you stop.

In this room

Warm and cold

Sort clothes by warm and cold weather first.

Then by type

T-shirts, sweaters, shorts, pants, skirts and dresses, jackets and coats.

Separate bins

Outerwear and hand-me-downs each get their own labeled bin.

KEEP IT THAT WAY

Review each closet every six months to keep it clean and organized.

ONE THING TO REMEMBER

Keepsakes deserve their own storage, not the back of the closet.

YOUR CHECKLIST IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

More tips and photos in the full post: read it here

ROOM BY ROOM · BEDROOMS · CHECKLIST

Kids' Closets Checklist

STARTED _____ DONE _____

- [ ] Set up bins, bags or boxes labeled Toss, Donate, Keep and Repairs.
- [ ] Empty all the drawers, shelves and hanging items.
- [ ] Vacuum and wipe the closet, drawers and shelves.
- [ ] Decide what will stay in this closet: clothing, out-of-season clothing, the kids' linens, toys, shoes or outerwear?
- [ ] Sort by looking at each item and deciding what to keep. Only keep what you'll store in this closet.
- [ ] Group like items together, using bins and boxes to keep the groups together. For kids' closets, I like to sort by warm and cold weather:
  - [ ] T-shirts: tanks, short sleeves, long sleeves
  - [ ] Shorts, pants, skirts and dresses
  - [ ] Outerwear and hand-me-downs in separate bins
  - [ ] Sweaters and cardigans, thinner and thicker
  - [ ] Blazers, jackets and coats
- [ ] Put each group back in the closet according to how often it's used.
- [ ] Choose suitable storage for keepsakes, photos and special items.
- [ ] Label every container. For younger kids, use pictures instead of words.
- [ ] Review each closet every six months to keep it clean and organized.

NOTES

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