

## What tasks a child can do?

**Each child develops on his or her own timetable, so these ages are approximate. For boys, who mature more slowly, add six months to the ages given. Here is just a sampling of what tasks a child can do....**

### Ages 1½ - 4

Get diaper for herself or the new baby  
Put disposable diaper in trash  
Get her book from shelf for you to read to her  
Shut cabinet doors  
Sweep the floor  
Clean up what they drop after eating  
Clear own place at table  
Simple hygiene – brush teeth, wash hands,  
brush hair  
Fold napkins  
Help set table  
Peel carrots  
Put away silverware  
Pour measured items into mixing bowl  
Put away broom and dustpan  
Pick up unused toys and put in the proper place  
Dust lower shelves/additional dusting  
Carry stacks of clothes to rooms

### Ages 4-5

Put away books  
Set table  
Feed pets  
General straightening of rooms  
Put groceries away  
Help make beds and vacuum  
Help do dishes or fill in the dishwasher  
Dust  
Polish things  
Sharpen pencils  
Help fold her clothes  
Learn to tie shoes

### Ages 5-6

Make her sandwich  
Pour her drink/milk  
Make bed and clean room  
Dress herself  
Fold her clean clothes  
Help clean out the car  
Help to change the bed sheet

### 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Clear table  
Empty small trash  
Weeding  
Polish silver, brass  
Take out the garbage

Pour milk for family meals  
Shake rugs  
Water plants  
Peel vegetables  
Rake leaves  
Start learning to wash plastic and small  
dishes

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Take Phone messages  
Scrub floors  
Vacuum her room  
Load dishwasher  
Sweep floor  
Clean windows  
Help write grocery list

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Wash pans  
Mop floor  
Run own bath  
Straighten own closet and drawers  
Fold blankets  
Clean up animal messes  
Write thank-you notes  
Help with grocery shopping

### 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Wash dishes  
Wash pans  
Change sheets  
Do chores without a reminder  
Wash car  
Pack own suitcase  
Clean bathrooms  
Learn basic cooking skills  
Sew buttons  
Write grocery list  
Change baby's diapers  
Mow lawn with supervision  
Do their laundry  
Be alone at home for short periods (start at 5<sup>th</sup>  
grade)

**By age 12, the child can learn almost any house keeping skill, as long as you are willing to teach them. But certain skills depend on maturity level. Parents know best.**