



ORGANIZED TO PERFECTION

Spring 2011

ORGANIZING KIDS' BEDROOMS

I know every parent wishes and hopes that their kids will be healthy, happy, educated and organized. I know you can help them achieve the first couple of things from this list, but the last one -- organized kids? Now, you may be saying to yourself, that may be an impossible task!

Well, believe me, it can be done! If you have kids that are in grade school, high school or college, at every child's age they can be organized from my organizing methods that I have listed here.

Most kids are in dire need to be organized so they can find their favorite toy, stuffed animal, books, I-pod, video games, etc. Bedrooms are made for sleeping, relaxing and enjoying time with friends in this space. Here are a few tips that all parents can do to help their kids get and stay organized.

Remember the organizing steps – sort, purge and organize. First, address what your child really needs in their bedroom. Is there too much furniture in the bedroom, are there baby toys in their room and they are teenagers now, do they need a bookcase to hold books, photo albums, electronic items? ASK them what they want and listen to them.

Of course, give them what they need within reason. Their clothes are on the floor because they do not have a good place to put dirty laundry, their closet is stuffed with clothes they don't wear so their new clothes end up on the floor or on their bed. And they need some space to put their things like electronics, papers and books.

Second, move out of the room furniture that has no purpose or function to them. Is the dresser not working for them

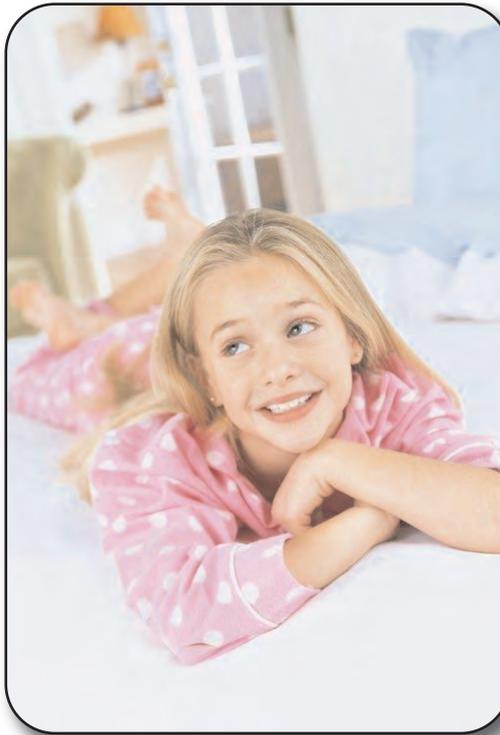
and a closet organizing system would work better for them organizationally? Sort through all paperwork in the room. All school work papers should be kept in a separate space in their bedroom -- either a bin, basket or filing system. Then, at the end of the school year, they can be thrown out or put in a memory box for schoolwork.

Next, check the sizes of the clothes to see if they still fit. This is an easy step for kids because they will never fit into those clothes again. Not like adults and their clothes (this is another topic for another day!) If the clothes do not fit your kids, pass them along as hand-me-downs to other kids or donate them. Also, sort through the books and put them in a bookcase in the room. If they do not all fit, identify the ones they like and keep them in the bedroom, and disperse the rest throughout the house in bookcases.

Third, after sorting and purging the items, organize what is left. In kids' rooms, there should only be clothes, books and toys (this should be limited as to the age of the child). There are some great organizing bins or baskets

for kids and teens and college kids at Target, Container Store or Home Goods. They are able to organize their items in a way that is functional and have a look that is only unique to them.

I have worked with numerous kids organizing their bedrooms and they love the end result. This space is theirs, so give them the peace of organization and believe me, they will take these methods with them throughout their lives.



From the desk of **Elizabeth Fuchs**



I have completed my 1 year term as President of the Chicago Chapter of NAPO (National Association of Professional Organizers). It was an honor to serve the members and the Chapter. We have accomplished a great deal and it was a rewarding experience for me and my business. I am proud of what I have accomplished and I look forward to other opportunities coming my way in the future.

I had the unique experience of being a lead organizer in the fall for the A & E TV show "Hoarders." I teamed up with several organizers to help a family in Minooka, Illinois, work through their hoarding behaviors. We were brought in to give them space so the family can live a healthy lifestyle and repair the family relationship. It was a great opportunity for me to be part of this show and the production and to help a family in need.

I attended our annual NAPO Conference in San Diego, California, this month. I attended workshops and leadership forums and reconnected with old friends. This has been my 8th conference and every year I learn techniques, solutions and new products that I bring to my clients to give you the best solutions to your organizing situations.

I hope you all enjoy springtime and are able to start thawing out from our long winter!

EXPANDED ORGANIZING SERVICES

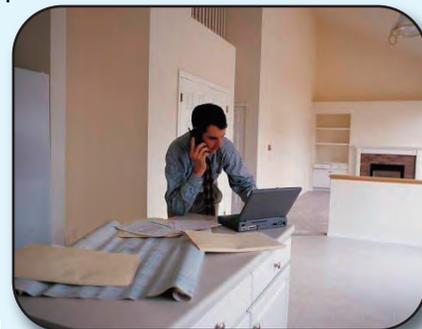
My company has expanded its services and I am pleased to advise you of the changes. This list is for you, friends, co-workers or family members that may need these services. These will compliment my current services of residential organizing, home office paper management and relocation services.

Remodeling

I have several clients that have remodeled their homes and office space. I helped them organize their items to get ready for the construction work so they can easily find items during the construction process. Also at the same time, we purge items they do not need anymore, and especially for their new space. Once the construction is complete, we organize the new space to be sure it is functional and practical for their usage. At the beginning of the construction process we discuss how you see this new space working for you and at the end of the process we make sure that the new space does help you with staying organized and is easily maintained.

Concierge Service

We have a few clients for whom I perform concierge service for their home or offices. I maintain homes for them when they are away for an extended period of time. If there is a maintenance problem at the home, I meet with the contractors, or if there are special deliveries to the home, I am there to accept them. In addition, we organize and set up summer and winter homes for the client. If it is a new home or there is a need to get the home ready for guests, we come in and get the home organized for their visit. Also, we make sure there are enough supplies at the home for the guests.



Downsizing

I have given presentations to several groups about downsizing and how to get your home organized and ready to move into a smaller home or assisted living community. It is hard to give up items and precious things from your home and move into a space and I work with the homeowner to find room for their special items. I consult with the homeowner about what is really valuable both financially and emotionally, and we select those pieces that will move with them. We discuss estate sales, giving to family members or friends or charity organizations. This process always takes several steps but I work with the client to make them feel comfortable in their decisions and I don't push them into something they are not ready to do or want to do.

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REMEMBER:

AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A PEACEFUL HOME