Westchester NY Moms

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Spring is here with thoughts of daffodils, warmer days, and...spring cleaning! While this prospect can be daunting--especially for busy moms--we have some great tips on how to declutter and organize kids' bedrooms and playrooms without the panic.

Brave the Bedroom

The first and most simple step when tackling a child's bedroom, whether it belongs to a wee one or a pre-teen, is to **remove all trash** from trash cans, as well as hidden trash from under the bed, on closet floors, and even behind furniture. Once that's done, the real decluttering can begin. An easy starting point is with clothing. Closets, dressers, and bureaus might be filled to the brim with clothing that your child has outgrown, or which is simply damaged or stained beyond repair. **Combine clothing by size** to expedite sorting. Then, **divide all clothing into three piles: Keep, Donate, and Store** (for younger siblings or anyone you'd like to pass them onto). Clearly label what you're storing, so you don't need to dig through boxes and bins in the future, when you're looking for items like that special holiday dress for the baby!

Next, **tackle the toys**. Begin the process of sorting through toys one by one, **dividing them into our three categories of Keep**, **Donate**, **and Store**. After toys, you can focus on a library overhaul by sorting through your child's books. Again, keeping the trifecta of Keep, Donate, and Store in mind, you can ensure there will be space for new favorites as your child grows.

After curating and sorting what remains in the room, it is an excellent time to **thoroughly clean all surfaces**, **especially the floors** (now that you can reach under the bed and deep inside the closets). A clean bedroom provides the opportunity to implement new storage solutions. Remember, **organization is much easier to maintain when everything has a home**. Bins, baskets, and dresser drawer dividers will help you and your kids stay organized going forward. Don't forget to **use coordinated space-saver hangers** in closets to maximize your space! With systems in place, your child can help maintain their organized space on a daily basis.

Plow Through the Playroom

The playroom can easily become the most unruly area in your home, but conversely might be the most straightforward to organize. Imaginations run wild in the playroom, but that doesn't mean you need to live in disarray. Again, **we call on our trusted trifecta** to guide us through the playroom makeover journey: **Keep, Donate, and Store**. As children outgrow toys, it's fairly easy to determine under which category items fall. **Pro tip: do not include the kids in the toy sorting process**--they've been known to fall in love again with long-forgotten favorites which can make organizing take infinitely longer. Once finished decluttering and purging, you can begin reorganizing the room. **Miniature cubbies, baskets, and clear (or colorful) bins are the key to a neat and orderly playroom**. If you don't have clear bins, be sure to **clearly label** the outside of the bin with the name of its contents (or with a picture label, for younger children). **Divide the room into activity zones**: a craft area, a reading nook, a game section—and store all necessary items for the activity in their respective zone.

When reorganizing a playroom, **make sure that your children can comfortably reach whatever they need**. This fosters independence and encourages participation in cleanup. Returning a toy, book, or art supply to its rightful home is much more likely to happen if it is easy to do. We call that a win-win for parents and children alike!

If you need to purchase new furniture for your playroom, be sure to **look for multi-use storage solutions** like tables with shelves or drawers underneath, ottomans that open for additional storage, or benches with organizing cubbies. You never need to compromise style for function.



Need assistance conquering your kids' clutter? 123organize is here to help!

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