



10 Ways to Make Chores Fun

1. A little incentive goes a long way. Offer an award for a job well done. Consider offering an allowance if you have teenagers.

2. Make it a competition. When a family member completes a task, have them mark it with a sticker on their chore chart. Whoever has the most stickers at the end of the week gets the award.

3. Play “Go Fish” with clean socks. Divide the socks among players, leaving a pile to draw from. Each player, in turn, holds up a sock and asks another player if they have a mate. If not, the asking player must draw from the top of the sock pile. The player with the most pairs at the end wins!

4. Have a scavenger hunt. Make a list of everyday items (newspapers, magazines, shoes, etc.). Set a timer for 10 minutes, then have kids collect stray items throughout the house. The winner is the child who picks up the most and returns them to their rightful spots.

5. Try to beat the clock! After dinner, do a “10-minute Tidy.” Set a timer and have family members scatter through the house putting away the day’s clutter. Or go room by room and try to get everything cleaned in that room before the bell goes off.

6. Create a personalized cleaning caddy. Write your child’s name on it, and they can even have fun decorating it themselves. Store supplies such as a sponge, dust rag, roll of paper towels, etc.

7. Play your favorite music or movie. Kids can take turns playing the songs they love as they work. If you have a stationary task, like folding clothes or organizing a toy box, turn on a favorite movie or television show.

8. Put on cleaning-specific gear. Research suggests that having designated outfits for specific tasks may actually increase motivation, so go ahead and treat your family members to something cute or fun to clean in.

9. Ask for your child’s ideas. Engage your child by getting their input. If it’s their job to decorate for a party, ask if they want to blow up balloons or hang streamers. If they are going to help garden, what flowers do they want to plant? Will they water them in the morning or before bed? If they’re packing snacks, do they want apples or bananas?

10. Switch up chore assignments. Having a rotating chart where kids do different jobs each week prevents disengagement. For example, they could switch between setting the table, sweeping after dinner, and clearing the table.

REMEMBER: Thank and reinforce! Just like adults, kids appreciate being thanked. Help them to think about chores as “meaningful roles” not just for the good of themselves but to help a collective.