

# 5 Ways to Make Chores Fun for Your Kids

Most young kids would not consider doing household chores like dusting or cleaning the toilet “fun”. And when they’re not having fun, it’s likely that the quality of their work may not be great or they may not be very efficient completing the tasks. They might even dread chore time. So how can you make the process of doing chores more fun for the kiddos? We came up with five ideas for you to try out:

## Make a chart board

Have your kids help you make a list of the possible chores that can be done around the house and write them out on a white board or poster. They can even decorate it to make it more personalized.

Then, instead of just dividing all the chores between your kids, assign them one or two essential chores they must complete, and then have them choose the rest. Each time a chore is completed, your kid can put a sticker on the board. To make it even more fun and add a little incentive, the kid with the most stickers at the end of the week can receive a prize, like getting an extra hour of electronics time or picking out the movie that the entire family will watch that week.



## Make up stories

As your kids do chores, tell stories that will engage their imaginations. You can send them on “missions”, stressing that efficiency and the completion of the task (the chore) is the utmost importance for the survival of the world. When they are cleaning up their toys, have them pretend they are cleaning up the battlefield or cleaning up a field for planting. When they’re doing dishes, pretend they are actually washing instruments that will be used in a science experiment and need to be pristine clean. No matter what story you tell, their chores will now seem a whole lot more interesting.

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## Cleaning dance party

Put a playlist of your kids' favorite songs, crank up the speaker, and have a dance party while cleaning! Let them sing out loud (and expelling some excess energy, too!) while getting the work done. Chores won't feel so mundane when they get to belt out "Let It Go". You can even join in on the fun, too!

## Take "fun" breaks

If they have several chores to complete, it can feel daunting to have to commit an extended period of time just for those mundane tasks. Help keep them get energized and engaged by setting timed breaks. For example, you can tell them to do chores for 15 minutes, and then they will get a 10 minute break to go run around outside, before doing another 15 minutes of chores.

## Do a cleaning relay

Some chores require several steps. For example, changing the sheets requires stripping the bed, bringing the sheets to the laundry room, starting the washing machine, switching the load to the dryer, then putting the sheets back on the bed and making the bed. That's a lot of steps! Assign your kids to certain tasks within the chore. So Kid 1 could strip the bed, Kid 2 could bring the sheets to the laundry room, and Kid 3 could start the washing machine. It's fun when you are part of a team, and doing the task together will keep them motivated.

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When it comes to chores, routine isn't always best. Kids can get bored when they have to do the same chores, week after week, with nothing really mixing things up. These 5 ways to help them have fun are just a few of many ideas to help keep them from dreading chores!



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- 1. Normalize parents seeking support and help as a manner of child abuse prevention*
- 2. Engage community in how they can work to prevent child abuse*
- 3. Work to build resiliency in families through promotion of the 5 protective factors*

*Maybe you coach a baseball team or you help care for the neighbor kids from time to time. You are investing in the safety and security of the children in our community. Because it truly does take a village to raise our children, we want to offer the tools needed to bring awareness and education to preventing child abuse.*