

Simplicity Kids Newsletter

December 2009

Organizing Your Child's Artwork

Are you struggling with what to do with your child's artistic Masterpieces? Concerned that you might thwart your budding Picasso? But feeling overwhelmed by the sheer volume of it all? Never fear, you can encourage your developing DaVinci and reclaim the walls, doors and surfaces in your home.

The first step is to determine which pieces of artwork to keep. Try to keep this step simple. If the artwork is not meaningful, significant or appealing, let it go. No need to clutter your space with meaningless works of art. Envision your own parents presenting you with a box of your preschool artwork - crumbled macaroni, cracked paint, and molded marshmallows. If you love the artwork, keep it.

After you have determined which masterpieces to keep and let go of, the second step is to determine the best option for storing or displaying the masterpieces. Here are a few of our favorite ideas.

1) **Bulletin boards.** The bulletin board should be large enough to hold one to three pieces of your child's artwork. Display the artwork on the bulletin board until the child is ready to replace it. Let your child decide when it is time to change out the artwork. At year's end, the top three favorites can be permanently stored. The bulletin board can be hung in an entrance way/hallway, laundry room, playroom, or kitchen.



2) **Art portfolio.** Art portfolios or "artist folders" preserve all sizes of artwork. Keep no more than three pieces of art each year. Label each piece with the child's name, date, and grade level.

3) **Scrapbook.** For scrapbook aficionados, Creative Memories may be the right choice for you. Take photographs of your child with their artwork and display the photos in a scrapbook. One large scrapbook should be sufficient to hold works of art from

kindergarten through twelfth grade. Schedule time with your child to work on their scrapbook each year.

4) **Scan it.** Your child's artwork does not have to remain on paper. Scan their favorite pieces into your computer and save it to a disk or thumb drive. iMac users can make a movie that features the artwork.

5) **Wrapping paper.** Save money by using your child's artwork as wrapping paper. Ask your child to select the pieces to decorate the gifts.

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Laurie Jones Martin, CPO®
Simplicity Kids Coach

Laurie's Experience:

- 20+ years of experience working with and teaching children of all ages, including preschool, elementary, middle, high and college.

Simplicity, 2006- present:

- Developed and wrote Simplicity Kids organizational curriculum for children ages 5-21.
- Organized children from 2006 to



6) **Frame it.** Framing and displaying artwork honors your child's best and most significant works of art. Special artwork, worthy of framing, can be displayed in the child's room, the playroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, or even guest or parent bedrooms. Frames should provide easy access for frequent changes.

7) **Clothes line.** Suspend ribbon, twine, or durable string across walls or windows. Attach metal clips or clothes pins to hold paintings or drawings. Allow your child to select pieces worthy of display . As new

artwork comes in, old artwork is removed. Dispose of less significant pieces.

8) **Placemats.** Once a month, select pieces to laminate and use as table placemats. Mealtime is an ideal place for an artwork "show and tell".

9) **Storage containers.** Label a 32-35 quart storage container with your child's name and grade level. Keep the container in an easily accessible location. Evaluate pieces to add to the container regularly. Sorting opportunities teach organizational skills. Identify which pieces to KEEP- top three favorites; DONATE- select family members as recipients; or DISCARD- dispose of pieces which have no emotional value.

10) **Flat file boxes.** Flat file boxes are a great resource for storing children's artwork. Boxes approximately 11x14 will protect over-sized art work. Add two to three pieces of artwork each year, labeling each picture with the date and grade level.

11) **Art gallery.** Attach cork board to the wall or paint an entire wall with magnetic paint. Add to this wall gallery throughout the year. At year's end, clear the wall to make room for new pieces. Keep your child's "top three" and dispose of the others.



12) **Take a picture.** If age appropriate, provide frequent opportunities for your child to photograph artwork or projects. Label each photograph and store in an album. Maintain one photo album for each child. There is no better time than now to choose the best way to honor your child's masterpieces. Start fresh in the new year!

Simplicity Kids Program

Simplicity Kids is an organizational program designed to empower children and teens. By creating orderly living in home and

school environments, children will gain essential skills that will last a lifetime.

Our methodology is grounded in the gradual release model of responsibility, which includes guided instruction, collaborative learning, and independent learning. This model not only enables the child or teen to discover order in the present, but also helps them retain and reapply these skills in multiple areas of their life.

By working one-on-one with a Simplicity Kids Coach, children and teens will

Trinity Episcopal School, 2001-2005:

- Won 3rd Place in the Country for the Most Creative Teacher of the Year Award by Dole Food.
- K-5 Healthful Living Teacher 2002-2005. Created, designed, and implemented the "Healthful Living" curriculum.
- 2nd Grade Teaching Assistant, 2001-2002.
- Lead organizer/planner for Field Day.
- Head of the Facilities Committee for Accreditation and Head of the Kitchens Committee, 2004-2005.
- Started Middle School WyldLife, 2004-2005.

Laurie's Education and Training:

- Meredith College, B.A. Child Development, 2001.
- K-6 North Carolina "A" licensure.
- Certified Professional Organizer.

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identify their strengths and preferred learning styles through a variety of games and activities.

Our goal is to provide children with the tools they need to create authentic and enduring systems and spaces that will reduce anxiety, increase confidence and generate success.

Inaugural Simplicity Book Club

We'll be discussing the new book, [THE POWER OF LESS](#) by Leo Babauta. Simplicity will be expediting the conversation, but this is a discussion, not a lecture, so all participants should read the book prior to our meeting. It's a quick read and full of both inspiration and practical suggestions.

Embracing the "power of less" is a great way to keep your New Year's Resolutions on track!

Space is limited, so make your reservation now and invite a friend to join you.

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
10:00 - 11:30 AM
1227 Coddington Place
Charlotte, NC 28211
\$10 to attend the book discussion

The book can be purchased on [Amazon.com](#). The book is also available at the [Public Library](#) and many of the local book dealers.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 13th at
<http://simplicitybookclub01272010.eventbrite.com>

Coat & Blanket Drive to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry

The Charlotte Observer has launched a coat and blanket drive to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry (www.crisisassistance.org). Your donation of new or gently used coats and blankets is an easy way to have a big impact on an individual's life. Drop off coats or blankets at The Charlotte Observer's lobby at 600 S. Tryon St. or at any Mecklenburg public library or any Queen City Audio location. Collections will continue through December 23. If you have questions, contact Editorial Page Editor Taylor Batten at 704.358.5934 ortbatten@charlotteobserver.com.

Gift Certificates Are Available

Gift Certificates are available for all Simplicity and Simplicity Kids services. Give the gift of organization to someone special in your life. For more details visit the [Simplicity website](#) or contact Simplicity today.

Warmest regards!
Laurie Martin & your Simplicity Kids Team