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## Simplicity Kids Newsletter - March 2010

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## CLEAN YOUR ROOM!!!

It's the every day battle cry of millions of parents across America: "*CLEAN YOUR ROOM!*"

### Taming the Clutter Monster in Your Child's Bedroom...

Spring has finally arrived. Hibernation is over. It's time to pull back the curtains, open the windows, and shed light into your child's winter cave.

#### Tips for Helping Your Child Organize His or Her Bedroom

##### 1) Let your child be involved - this is a teachable moment.

Resist the urge to purge the bedroom when your child is not around. Children are more apt to understand the organizational logic and maintain the new, organized room when they are involved. Systems must be customized for the child in order for them to be successful. It is crucial for your child to take ownership, so provide your child with the tools he or she needs to clean and organize the bedroom. To eliminate the stress, tension, and a potential argument, it may be worth your time and money to hire a professional organizer to assist with the process.

##### 2) Assist your child in identifying what is important in his or her life RIGHT NOW!

What is likely cluttering your child's spaces are:  
The belongings that used to be important  
+  
The belongings your child thought might be important  
+  
The belongings your child knows are important  
=  
TOO MUCH STUFF!

In order for children to appreciate their belongings and make room for new items, they must take a step back and reflect on how they want their room to look and feel.

##### 3) Identify a place for outgrown clothes.

Instead of wasting space in the closet, allow your child to designate a place for the clothes that no longer fit. Utilize a bin, basket, container or tub. Brainstorm together where your child would like for these clothes to go, once the bin or basket is full. To a sibling? A relative? A friend? A charity? Let your child decide and take the initiative to deliver the

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items to the designated recipient.

#### 4) Store belongings in appropriate containers.

Large toy chests, aka black holes, are known for breaking toys, swallowing lost pieces, and making you forget what you have. Purchase storage containers and bins that are durable and the appropriate size. Clear containers are ideal because your child can see the contents.

#### 5) Use the space under your child's bed to your advantage.

There are a variety of storage bins that are now available for under the bed storage. Toys, out of season clothes, and keepsakes are great for storing under the bed.

#### 6) Organize from the bottom up.

No one likes to put anything away if it is too difficult. Toys and clothes typically do not land where they are supposed to when the drawer is too hard to open, the shelf is too high to reach, or the bin is too full to use. Accessibility is important when organizing a child's bedroom. Let your child identify what belongings are frequently used versus what they rarely access.

#### 7) Label!

Labels really do save the day! Have your children label the outside of drawers, shelves, and containers. It may be helpful to put labels on both sides of a container so it does not matter which way your child puts the container away, either way it is still labeled!

It is inevitable that your child's space is going to get messy again. Maintenance is key. As long as every toy, article of clothing, and each collectible has a home-it should not take more than ten minutes to clean up at the end of the day. Build this clean up time into your daily, or preferably nightly routine. Since mornings are typically hectic, an after-dinner clean up time can lead to a smooth transition before bedtime. Turn the de-cluttering into a habit. Set an example for your child and make time to organize your own room first!

**Need help getting started? Contact a Simplicity Coach today!**

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### Testimonial

*Working with a professional organizer is awesome. They know what to do and how to do it. I learned that organizing your space has many benefits. I will maintain the systems by putting away everything I take out and not leaving it in a mess on the floor. My overall experience was great. Laurie taught me how to organize my room and keep it that way. I would recommend a professional organizer to my friends because having an organized space is the best thing ever. It is so easy to find everything.*

~Sydney P., age 11

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### Extreme Bedroom Make-over: Just for Girls (Ages 8-12 and 13-16)

Interested in signing your daughter, grand-daughter or niece up for a summer camp program on organizing?

- So many clothes, toys, and collectibles that you do not even know where to begin?
- Tired of battling your daughter's cluttered bedroom?

Organizing is a learned skill that can be taught! In this lively, entertaining, and interactive 5-day workshop, your daughter and three other girls will learn how to work together to help transform each others bedrooms. During this workshop, girls will learn the steps to effective organizing, build customized systems, and apply organizational strategies to everyday life. The end result? A beautiful and functional bedroom-where everything has a home!

### Organizing Summer Camp Program:

Sessions: Monday through Friday, 9am-1pm

Location: Each child's house for 1 session

Cost: \$220 per child

Contact Laurie Martin at [laurie@simplicity-organizers.com](mailto:laurie@simplicity-organizers.com) for more information on the Organizing Summer Camp.

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**Too many pencils and pens crowding your drawers?!?  
Donate to Classroom Central!**

Classroom Central provides free school supplies to area school districts and needs donations to keep up with the recent demand.

Donate pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, markers, and loose-leaf paper.

**Drop off donations at:**

Classroom Central  
2116 Wilkinson Blvd, Charlotte, NC  
Monday-Friday 8:30AM-Noon  
[www.classroomcentral.org](http://www.classroomcentral.org)  
704.377.1740 ext. 11

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**FREE LOCAL SHRED EVENT: Protect Your Identity**

at the **National BBB Secure Your ID Day!!**  
sponsored by CMPD's Financial Crimes Unit

**Location:** Jay M. Robinson Middle School  
5925 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28277 (Off Hwy 485 at Providence Rd)

**Date:** Sat., April 17, 2010

**Time:** 9:00AM-1:00PM

[charlotte.bbb.org/events-calendar](http://charlotte.bbb.org/events-calendar)

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**Simplicity is now on Facebook. Click on the graphic below to get tips, find out about local organizing events, and to become a Fan. The Simplicity website also has a lot of resources and is updated regularly.**



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**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 acquire both organizational and time management skills. Children will identify their strengths and preferred learning styles through a variety of games and

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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.

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## 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.

*Happy Spring!*

*Laurie Martin & your Simplicity Kids Coaches*

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