

Make the most out of a

snow day



Hello, Friends!

810.348.1772

betty@logicalplacement.com • www.LogicalPlacement.com

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Are you tired of doing everything yourself? Then this is the year we are going to change that! Experts agree it is important to get everyone involved, when major changes are being made in our lives. Why do you have to do it all alone and have all the fun, right? You don't need to be the only one — the martyr.

Let's hold a family meeting and discuss the importance of working together. A lot of our kids have played on teams, so that's how I would word it. In order to be on a "winning team," we have to work together — and then it's ok to have a reward so we keep family members motivated. After victories, it's important to celebrate as well.

Let's divide some of the tasks according to the age group:

Toddlers

- Pick up toys
- Match up shoes and put them away
- Come up with a morning and bedtime routine where you talk with your kids from the beginning of putting things away once you use them or move into a new task
- Create a visual checklist and give them stickers and set up a reward system.

School aged

- Empty dishwasher (or hand-wash any remaining dishes)
- Set and clear the table and empty the dishwasher
- Pick up their rooms, toys, and games
- Feed animals
- Make bed every morning

They also need a checklist and maybe set up a reward system where they can earn extra money or stickers if they want to complete additional tasks. My kids were money driven, like most youngsters.

Teenagers

I know you are rolling your eyes now, but let's get them to participate:

- Don't be the parent who doesn't pass along the life skills of doing laundry, cleaning up, and learning meal prep until after they go to college. Are you going to follow them there and then take their laundry home weekly and bring it back all nice and clean and folded? No don't do it.
- You have to draw the line. I think as a parent it is your responsibility to prepare them for leaving the nest and help them learn time management. That is part of the college experience, and it is certainly a big part of the life experience. And, it's simply based on sharing the basic things you already know and do.

You should show them how to do it the first time and then it's helpful to give them a checklist. For instance if they are cleaning their bathroom put the checklist in a drawer so they can refer to it:

- Dust
- Vacuum
- Clean the mirror
- Clean the sink and counter top
- Clean the toilet bowl and rim and then throw out the paper towel

It's helpful to have the cleaning wipes under the sink because you can do a fast cleaning job in case someone drops over.

Other ideas for them to contribute could be:

- Laundry and iron
- Make lunches for school
- Mow lawns
- Go grocery shopping for you

College children who return for the summer

- They can do their own laundry
- Cook a dinner for the family
- Help them come up with a budget and manage it
- Help them understand that their bank balance isn't always what they have in their account. There are a few companies out there that still need a check and aren't set up to be paid online
- Check out several recent articles from "Real Simple" magazine and other sources for more age-appropriate suggestions.
- Some of the rewards for your family to share could be a pizza party on Friday night, movie night, board game night etc.

We're always looking for even more good ideas. Let me know how you reward your family!

I also wanted to share with you that I was a part of a great team of organizers and we ran the Detroit Messiest Contest thru the Detroit News. To read more please visit <http://logicalplacement.com/betty-in-the-news.html>.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

P.S. If you would like to share this email with a friend, please pass it along and if they would like to be added to my list, have them send me an email. If you wish to unsubscribe from the monthly newsletter, please send an email to betty@logicalplacement.com.

