

# Pointers For Parents

## Smarter Study Space, Smarter Students

(NAPSA)—Many of the country's top educators, progressive learning specialists, feng shui experts and storage/organization manufacturers are discovering something that every parent should know: Smarter study space may make for smarter students. When you clear the clutter, you clear the mind. Rethink desk and organization design, add the right components and the right process to watch students' self-esteem soar along with their grades.

“Organization is the basis of effective studying. Students typically spend 40 minutes a night digging out their assignments and wandering around finding supplies,” says Patricia Larsen, Executive Director of The Larsen Center in Sarasota, Florida, a burgeoning test prep and teaching facility addressing PSAT, SAT, early prep, Spanish, study skills and test-taking anxiety ([www.thelarsencenter.com](http://www.thelarsencenter.com)). “We’ve designed a student study space that helps kids get right to work.”

To clear clutter from the desktop, Larsen suggests using closets for easy-to-reach supplies. A reach-in closet can be outfitted and “grows” with the student using ClosetMaid’s ShelfTrack system. According to Susan Follick of ClosetMaid, “The ShelfTrack system is easy to install and makes a great do-it-herself project for a mom trying to solve her family’s storage needs. You hang the track and the rest of the components attach and snap into place. It then becomes easy to rearrange the closet as your children grow and their needs change.”

Accessories such as drawer kits, hanging baskets and rolling carts complement closet systems and are designed to create a sense of order. Many people choose the



**To clear clutter from the desktop, learning innovator Patricia Larsen suggests using closet systems to store easy-to-reach supplies.**

ClosetMaid 4-tier rolling cart because it rolls out for instant access to school supplies and rolls away when homework is done. Follick suggests using an online tool like the Visual Storage Planner on [ClosetMaid.com](http://ClosetMaid.com) to help plan the closet organization system.

When setting up your student’s workspace, Larsen advocates getting the kids involved. “Kids have definite ideas about what they like and what they think is cool. Talk it over with them, value their opinions, and determine what the priorities are: large textbooks, a laptop computer, space for sprawling art projects? Is your child left- or right-handed? That can also impact the desk’s layout. Let your students help pick the desk and color scheme. Encourage them and make it fun! They will respond.”

Ultimately, smarter studying requires an efficient, well-organized workspace. “Organizing your workspace may seem a bit daunting at first, but it saves so much time and energy when it’s done, you’ll wonder how you ever functioned without doing it.”

For more information, go to [www.closetmaid.com/studyspace](http://www.closetmaid.com/studyspace) or call 1-800-874-0008.