

Turn Closet Cleaning Into A Lifetime Lesson

Tips For Teaching Your Child To Donate Into The Future

(NAPS)—Any time of year is the perfect time for giving. And cleaning your children's closets affords the perfect opportunity to teach them how to share with others. Here are some simple tips for the winter months on instructing your children how to build a better home and community.

"This winter season get into your children's closets and roll up your sleeves," said Brian Kincaid, senior product manager at Rubbermaid®. "While you are doing something good in your house, it is also the perfect time to teach your children to do something generous outside your home by donating items you no longer use to your favorite charity."

1) Make it fun.

Getting your children to clean closets will be easier if you make it fun. Play music they like. Or turn it into a game or challenge between siblings, by seeing who can come up with the best or most creative way to organize in the quickest amount of time.

2) Get rid of clothing items that no longer fit or are no longer worn.

The first and most important rule is to discard those items no longer worn. Children are constantly growing—up and out of clothes and shoes. Clearing out these belongings is a valuable time-saver as well as a space saver.

3) Teach children the joy of giving.

While imparting the lessons of organization to your children, you also can use this project as a lesson about sharing. Instead of throwing out last year's coats, shoes and clothes that will no longer be worn, pack those gently-used items in a Rubbermaid tote



and donate it to your local Salvation Army or local shelter. Not only will the things be appreciated, but the tote can be reused as well. Challenging your children to give away what they no longer need will help pare down their closets and spark enthusiasm about doing good for others.

4) Make it easy for your kids to stay organized.

Kids are more likely to follow through if given definite instructions on how to do something. Be specific and give everything its own place. Create a new storage area for toys, separate from clothes. Provide the necessary storage containers. The new Rubbermaid Stack'n Sort Laundry Baskets provide an ideal storage solution for items such as toys because each can be carried separately and stacked one on top of the other. Clear storage containers allow you to find items easily without making a mess. When you're going through the toys, remember that as holidays and birthdays may have brought new toys to fill the closet, this may be a good time to give away a slightly used toy to a child in need.

For more information on surviving home organization, visit www.rubbermaid.com. For more information on the Salvation Army, call 1-800-SALARMY.