



## Getting the Whole Family into the Organizing Act

Do things feel out of control? Are you feeling more like Cinderella than the queen of the ball in your own home? Is everyone else off enjoying themselves while you slave away at one onerous task after another? If so, it's time for a change. You need help. Everybody needs to pitch in, but how do you accomplish that?

Go from room to room and determine what needs to be done in each room for it to be organized. List chores to be done: Daily, Weekly, Monthly and As Needed.

Have a family meeting. Announce that you need help. You can even start with this step and have all members of the family help to generate the chore list. Once the list is complete, have each person select a duty until all duties are assigned. Children may have limited choices based on their age and level of maturity. Don't get hung up on traditional gender roles in selecting tasks. Here are some ways other members of your household can help.

Even very young children can pick up their toys, put their clothes away (providing storage is within their reach), and do simple household chores like dusting; just remove any irreplaceable knick knacks first. Provide a checklist for what must be done to complete the job satisfactorily. Don't just say, "Clean your room." Be specific.

Since any excuse to drive is okay with most teenagers, a parent with a teenaged driver in the house need never go to the grocery store or the cleaners again until they leave for college. They may even be able to drop off or pick up younger siblings. Establish guidelines in advance about the use of the car. Driving and other privileges should be directly related to how well they have completed their tasks. Pre driving teenagers can prepare meals, clean up the kitchen, babysit, do their own laundry and clean their rooms.

Most people don't like to be nagged but a chore chart prominently displayed can serve as a gentle reminder, especially if they have selected the chore.

Elderly parents often want something to do. We sometimes take away that privilege because it takes them longer to get things done and the end result may not be up to our standards. Make allowances for this. They probably did the same for you when you were too young to do it perfectly.

When guests and visitors offer to help, accept graciously.

phone 336-314-1207 ~ fax 336-315-9138  
dmerchant@SimpleSolutionsPro.com  
www.SimpleSolutionsPro.com