

Young Children's Community Homeschooling, Volume 2

Aiding your Child's Development throughout the House

Our homes are originally set up to be places that serve the needs of adults. The chairs are large, the counters are high, the pitchers are heavy, the steps are far apart, and so on throughout the house. For children, homes are made for giants! We can help children do the work of forming themselves into adults by preparing our homes in a special way for them.

The following list offers *suggestions* for each area of the home. Only take the ideas that work for you! You may find different ways of meeting the needs of your child in your family.

Kitchen

- Child-sized table and chairs (This is important for child's work in the kitchen)
- Junior chair for use at the adult table
- Step stool (Tall enough to enable child to reach kitchen faucet)
- Small sponge in a bowl by the sink
- Foods on a low shelf of the refrigerator or refrigerator door
- Accessible paper towels
- Hooks for broom, dustpan, floor cloth, mop, etc.
- Designated space for child's eating dishes and utensils (Low cupboard, shelf etc)
 - 3-5 plain matching inexpensive bowls and small dishes
 - 3-5 to child-sized forks and spoons
 - Folded napkins
 - Six small glasses
 - One small pitcher

**Note: Real dishes and utensils encourage careful handling*
- Cupboard area or drawer with kitchen activities to do with a parent (Include an apron)
- *Fruits and Vegetables*
 - Cutting board
 - Two small bowls (One for refuse and one for prepared food)
- Small colander
 - Basket with utensils for food preparation (Spreader, peeler, chopper, etc.)
- *Baking*
 - Rolling pin
 - Wooden board
 - Mixing bowls
 - Timer
 - Basket with utensils for baking (Mixing spoon, wire whisk, measuring spoon, etc.)
 - Muffin tins, etc.

- **Family Room**

- Child-sized chair or bean-bag
- Basket with a few books
- Work/play table
- Designated space for toys (Low shelf, cupboard etc.)
- Small rug for defining the child's work space (This can be stored when not in use)
- Art supplies kept out of reach (Colored pencils, clay, scissors, paste, watercolors, etc.)

Bathroom

- A step stool that is high enough that the child can reach the faucet and see in the mirror
- Low towel rack or hook for the child's towel
- Sponge by the sink for clean-up
- Designated space for toothbrush, toothpaste, and drinking cup
- Small soap
- Hamper

Bedroom

Note: Childproof the entire room

- Low bed (Mattress or futon)
- Small chest of drawers or armoire (Use only the low drawers that slide easily)
- Closet with low hooks, low rod, and small hangers
- Limited choice of clothing
- Full-length mirror
- Low shelves
- Limited number of toys and puzzles
- A few books
- Small chair or comfortable pillow for reading and reflecting
- Stair-gate
- Hook-and-eye placed high on the outside of the door for safety
- Storage area that is out of reach

Entry Area

- Low hooks for coats
- Low storage for hats and mittens
- Storage for shoes and boots

Playroom

This may be a basement with large-muscle activities:

- Balls, basket or box to toss balls into; climbing apparatus; beanbag chairs; a balance beam; large boxes; large blocks; old sheets, etc.

General Remarks on Toys

An unorganized collection of toys, or an overwhelming number of them, is a distraction to young children, and they will often move from one to the next very quickly. Limiting the total number available at any one time provides an opportunity for children to notice each activity and develop concentration and mastery. Organization is a necessity for children as they develop the ability to classify and order their world.