Chaos to Calm Concept #2
Do **what** you need to do **when** you need to do it
Kid Friendly Tips

LIFETIME HABIT! Calendar

COLOR CODE: for each of your children OR if older child using own calendar, color code activities, school subjects, chores, etc.

MONTH AT A GLANCE: To get your child used to planning / managing their time, I love the idea of a Month at Glance calendar. Activities, tests, social things, etc. can go on calendar - and by looking at it in month view, they can better see / learn how to plan out things in advance (i.e., getting project done week before since following week is packed with other stuff).

Note: This is actually something I'd like to do with my boys this year. I'll attach a blank calendar template if you'd like to use as well. Just fill in numbers for each month. OR... let them pick out their own calendar!

Another option: An erasable weekly board (you can help them fill out each week)

> ***Behind the Scenes:***
> We have a monthly wall calendar in kitchen that shows kids' stuff, birthdays, when school's out, and some general things of mine.
>
> On my iCalendar, I have all of this plus more. Typically I highly recommend keeping as simple as possible - ONE calendar - so not having to cross check, etc. HOWEVER, this is what I've found works best for us. We'll go over it on Sundays - that week's stuff and will take a look into future weeks.
>
> **Bonus:** You can keep the calendar at end of year as a type of journal ... my stuff on digital calendar seems to disappear after it's been over a certain # of days.

MORE TIPS:

✳ TIME IT: Use a timer to help all ages know when it's time to: be ready for school, start homework, do chores, etc. Some digital apps / games now have timers built in so it'll announce "Game Over!" when digital time done.

✳ PREP: Get *everything* ready to go for next day: homework / backpack / even lunch / clothes (including socks, shoes, belt!), after school activity uniform, gear, etc.

✳ Help them create an awesome work space for homework, art, hobby, reading. Include comfy (good chair if at computer, for example), fun style, supplies needed right at hand. **When you're loving your environment it can do wonders. (For kids AND adults!)**

TIME SAVER!

Teach / SHOW your child step by step how to do a chore, for example. You can even make a checklist of the simple steps, printing out copies for future reference. **Spending that time upfront** will save you *and* your little (or not so little) ones a tremendous amount of frustration. And it'll keep you from saying, "I'll just do it myself!!!!!"

IDEA: You can give them each their own clipboard so they can take / check off steps / turn back in to you for a - "Super job!" Here's an example:

Cleaning Your Bathroom

☐ Remove everything from surfaces

☐ Squirt toilet bowl cleaner under rim & let sit

☐ Spray counter, sink, toilet & tub with bathroom cleaner

☐ Scrub everything clean (rinse out sponge!)

☐ Use paper towel on toilet :)

☐ Use toilet scrub brush to scrub inside toilet + gently shake brush + dry resting in between seats

☐ Put everything neatly back in place

You are done!! GOOD JOB!!!

(This sample template is attached)

IMPORTANT!

And ... be as CONSISTENT as you can with this stuff. I KNOW it's tough :) but well worth the initial extra effort.