



**Children's  
Service Society**

**Child Care Resource  
& Referral ~ Metro**

## Newsletter for Working Parents

### KIDS AND HOUSEHOLD JOBS

February 2010

Your child was not born with a work ethic. Studies have shown that the bases of a solid work ethic which include perseverance, self-discipline, and frustration tolerance are learned. Your home truly is a training ground to show children how to work by cleaning, cooking, and taking care of possessions.

Assign household jobs as appropriate to the age and ability of your children, but don't overwhelm your children with tasks that are beyond their strength or understanding. Remember that you first must spend time with your children to train them on how to do a job. If you aren't ready to train them, you can't expect them to know what to do.

Do not criticize or belittle your children even when their attempts at doing a job may not reach your expectations. Always be encouraging and free with your praise and admiration.

The following ages that are listed are approximate and capabilities will vary depending on the individual child.

#### **Three- to Four-Year-Olds Can:**

- Pick up toys
- Fold dishtowels and washcloths
- Match socks
- Put small items in the garbage
- Give food to pets
- Water plants

#### **Five- to Six-Year Olds Can:**

- Answer the telephone
- Sweep a deck/patio/porch
- Wipe the bathroom sink
- Put forks and spoons away
- Put their own clothes in the drawer
- Sort laundry into color piles
- Use a hand-held vacuum
- Put dirty clothes in the hamper

#### **Seven- to Nine-Year Olds Can:**

- Take out the garbage
- Set the table
- Clear the table
- Vacuum
- Clean the inside of a car
- Empty the dishwasher
- Put away clean dry dishes
- Water the garden

#### **Ten- to Twelve-Year Olds Can:**

- Clean mirrors
- Clean kitchen counters & sink
- Fold and put away laundry
- Put away groceries
- Pack their own lunch
- Do light yard work
- Load the dishwasher

#### **Thirteen- to Fourteen-Year Olds Can:**

- Clean the bathroom
- Change bed sheets
- Mow the lawn
- Wash dishes by hand
- Wash the car
- Do laundry
- Shovel snow

#### **Fifteen Years and Up Can:**

- Use a leaf blower
- Use a snow blower
- Clean the refrigerator
- Reorganize storage areas
- Make dinner

**Resources:** [www.WorkingMom.com](http://www.WorkingMom.com), "Age Appropriate Household Job Chart"; *Wasatch Woman*, "Job Charts Revamped—Training Toddler to Teen, Perez, p.48"; [www.today.msnbc.msn.com](http://www.today.msnbc.msn.com), "What chores at what age? A guide for parents", Peters.