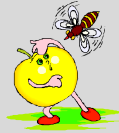


COMING SOON!



August 2008



The BuzzLetter



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Getting ready for school

The beginning of a new school term is just ahead and some of us are still in the vacation mode. What to do? Back-to-school time can be very stressful, but it needn't be. To make it a smooth routine for you and your kids (or children, if you prefer):

Get organized

Plan ahead. Not only for what they need now, but get back-up supplies as well. Keep the extras somewhere the kids can access them throughout the year. This will save time and money, especially with gas prices being what they are now.

Label everything. Because you invest a lot of time and money in school supplies, you'll want to make sure it's *your* child who gets to use them. Permanent markers work great for labeling backpacks, lunch boxes and gym shoes. For notebooks, pencil boxes and such, consider a personalized rubber stamp or address label in your child's name.

Designate a gathering spot by the door. When backpacks, brief-cases, coats, and lunch bags are ready to go, set them out by the door. This allows everybody to simply grab their things on the way out and not waste time rushing around looking for things.

Set aside homework time each evening. Get agreement on the time from the whole family so everyone feels invested in its success. This takes the pressure off your busy mornings and allows time for relaxed discussion and help with the assignments the evening before.

Give Neatness Awards

Encourage neatness and reward them when appropriate. Show them how to:

- ◆ Sort their supplies neatly in trays and drawers
- ◆ Separate papers by those finished and unfinished
- ◆ Arrange books by subject (or do it the fun way by color)



Showing your kids how to be organized now will help them later in college, business and their own home life. Periodically, take a look-see to see how they're doing. When you're pleasantly surprised by their neatness, leave a short note telling them so, plus a treat (such as a Slurpee "voucher", movie tickets, or item for their collection). What a splendid bonding opportunity this can be, don't you think?

CHALK TALK

You've Got Mail

"Fun" Web surveys can disguise sinister intent!

Tell me 10 things about your favorite pet . . . You might think this kind of e-mail or Web survey is a fun way to communicate with friends, but beware. Unscrupulous people could well use these forms to solicit personal information about you or your children. A question asking for your pet or children's names is dangerous. Once a criminal has an e-mail address and matching personal information, he or she can experiment with your bank account password, or even lure your kids into a private chat based on the information.

Best bet: Don't fill out personal surveys on a Website or an e-mail and never forward them.

Help kids stay focused

Coming off a summer vacation makes it hard for anyone to focus, but here are a few tips that might help your kids stay on task during homework time:

- * Block off time beforehand.
- * Eliminate potential distractions like TV and video games.
- * Turn off mobile phones, email and instant messenger.
- * Fix a snack before starting so there's no reason for a break later.
- * Tackle the worst assignment first so the others seem that much easier.



Assigning Responsibility

So where does a parent begin:

- Make a list and stick to it.
- Develop a weekly schedule.
- Let children help.
- Remember that there is more than one way to complete a specific task.
- Think in terms of "two" sets of devices or tools — like-version or toy version.
- Work side by side.
- Let children imitate.
- Spend more time in or around the home.
- Reward a job well done.

Look for your child's successes



A child who receives recognition for academic achievement is much more likely to want to excel in school. Thus, focus on what your child does right - that is, look for achievements. Remember that a major key to improving your child's school success is making him or her feel successful. Train yourself to look for the good things your child does - look for success. Let your child know you like it and encourage it. If you focus on, expect and recognize success, you will get more of it.



Home Matters

The New Hot Spots

The Family Home Office/Education Room

Not all family rooms are being converted to the new *hot spot*—the Game Room. Some are being renovated into the Family Home Office for the whole family, with features like desks and laptop ports for *every member* of the family. Included is special lighting for computer work, homework, and reading. There can be bookshelves, storage areas, and work stations for each person.

One builder quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* offers a bright yellow Education Room with chairs and desks that adjust to adult and kid heights. Though yellow maybe be a bit bright for maintaining concentration, it'll certainly keep everyone awake. In the Family Home Office/Education Room, mom, dad, and the kids bond over work instead of television.

Some moms and dads, however, say they need a separate space to do their work. What works for you?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Summer's last respite and man's best friend

As the Dog Days of summer continue until mid-August we're reminded of the busy time ahead - preparing for a new school term, harvest time, and the coming holidays. So much to do so little time.

With this in mind Buzzing Kids World feels all of us could use a little laughter now and then. So . . . we'll devote a section of The Buzz Page to On The Lighter Side to fill this purpose as part of our monthly - themed newsletter.

Thanks for joining us. *The Editor*

AUGUST HEAT

In August, when the days are hot,
I like to find a shady spot,
And hardly move a single bit--

And sit--

And sit--

And sit--

And sit!

~ Anonymous

~

Deep summer is when laziness
finds respectability. -Sam Keen

Speaking of Dogs . . .

A little boy was roughhousing with his dog. His mother said to him, "Now Peter, I know you love Granger, but you're loving him too much. How would you feel if someone huge picked you up and squeezed you so hard you couldn't breathe?"



The boy thought a moment and then said, "I guess I'd feel like it was my birthday and Aunt Doreen was here."

~

It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking. I saw a little boy staring in at me.

"Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked.

"It sure is," I replied. Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the van.

Finally he asked, "What'd he do?"

~

If you think dogs can't count, try putting
3 dog biscuits in your pocket and then
giving Fido only 2 of them.

~ Phil Pastoret

August Project

Paint a wall mural



~ paintbynumberkit.com/murals.html

Redecorate a kid's room just in time for school

Paint by number kits were first introduced in the 1950s by Max Klein; however, the idea itself may be much older. There is evidence to suggest that Michelangelo assigned numbers to specific areas on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel to allow his assistants to more easily fill in the design.

Paint by number kits can be purchased from most larger craft stores and online retailers and are ideal for kids rooms - bedrooms or game rooms.

Note: For more decorating ideas click on My Space on the website Menu bar.

Peel-and-stick decals catch on as design fad

If you love a little playful decorating, but you also like to change your mind, look into the new rage of decal decorating.

Peel-and-stick art is showing up everywhere from living rooms and game rooms to corporation offices.

New decal decorations include removable murals designed to cover whole walls, as well as playful stickers that add a touch of whimsy to a corner in a game room. Urban Outfitters (urbanoutfitters.com) features whole-wall, removable photos of street scenes.

The Danish company Ferm Living (ferm means clever in Danish) offers a variety of clever silhouette stickers of earthy scenes such as tree branches, birds and leaves. (fermlivingshop.us)

Check whatisblik.com for a big collection of colorful wall graphics and eye catching chandelier silhouettes.

Themes for kids' rooms grow up with them, starting with farm animals and progressing to dinosaurs, and sports themes as well as in game rooms.

Remember that placing wall decals is a bit of a skill and while decals can be removed, many can't be repositioned. Decals should not be used on wallpaper, tile or paneling. They can be used on windows, floors and tables.