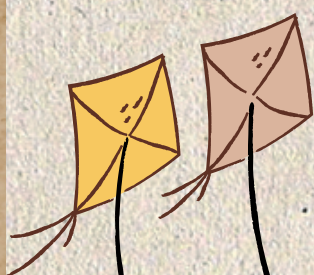


Working
With Children
to
Declutter
and
Organize



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Statistics

- The average child has 238 toys, but only plays with 12.
- 7.31% of the children in the world live in America and own 40% of the toys globally.

Research

Research has shown that when children have too many toys they become overwhelmed and played with one toy for a short period of time.

They found that when children were given less toys they tended to play with one toy longer along with using their imagination more.

We should supply our children with less toys that allow them to build their cognitive abilities along with their imagination.

They also found children were more willing to share toys when they had fewer.

Too many toys can overwhelm children leaving them not knowing what to play with.

Decluttering With Children

Be sure to have the following on hand. Black garbage bag, so they can not see what is in it, donate box, keep box, rotation container, one month box. The rotation container is optional if you want to rotate toys. The one month box is for things that the child is not ready to part with.

I find it is best to declutter toys at least twice a year, before their birthday and before a holiday where more toys will be brought into the house. This makes it easier for the child as it can be explained that room needs to be made for new things.

Start with toys that are no longer age appropriate. If the child argues about keeping the toy just put it in the one month box. Do not explain the one month box unless they ask, just tell them that it is a box where the toys will be kept and if you ask about I will get it out. You don't need to tell them that after a month the box will be donated.

Next go on to broken toys. If the child wants to keep it explain it is broke, does not work right and remind them that they have more toys coming. If that does not work into the one month box.

Next on to the toys the child plays with or does not. Encourage the child to help you sort the toys into categories. Once that is done ask the child to pick a certain number of toys from each category. Let them know the remainder of the toys will be donated, so other children how do not have any toys can have some.

Store the one month container somewhere where the child can not reach it or see. After one month if the child has not asked about all of the contents, donate it.

Throw away any broken toys the child has parted with and place the donation box in the car or somewhere where you can easily take it with you, the sooner the better.

Organizing With Children

I believe children should have a part in picking items to organize their belongings. In my personal experience they are more likely to use them and less likely to complain. Avoid toy boxes as toys are piled on top of each other and the toys on the bottom are less likely to be played with.

It is easier for children to have open storage, containers with no lids and labels, either an image or the image and the word. Having both helps children on the path to reading, especially if we point it out to them and say it.

Encourage the child to help place items and label them. Store items the child needs to ask for on shelves.

Organizing Suggestions

For stuffed animals a hammock or over the door shoe organizer works well, consider creating sections, such as blocks, vehicles, dolls, dolls clothes, dolls accessories, dress up clothes, crafts, puzzles, games etc. Be sure to include the child as it will make it easier for them to put things away.

Avoid Future Clutter

Decide how many toys your child actually needs and stick to it. Let family and friends know what you are doing and the results you have encountered. Some grandparents can be difficult, if this is the case tell them it would be great if they kept at their house and how it would be a special treat for when the child visits them. If the child receives a toy other than their birthday or special holiday remove one to make room for that one.

Less is more.

Give Rewards

You can let your child know beforehand that once the task is done either decluttering or organizing, that they will get a special treat. If it's something small like going out for ice cream you can tell them up front. If it is something bigger like a trip to the park, a movie, their favorite indoor play area or something bigger tell them they will have to wait to find out, but that they will love it. Avoid making any material purchases. This is a time for you and your child to bond over the accomplishments. Be sure to praise them, we all love to hear we did good.