

# PURGE THE TOYS

4 SIMPLE STEPS TO SETTING UP A HOME THAT  
INSPIRES IMAGINATION, AND FREES YOU UP TO  
BE A PRESENT MOM

---

[ALLIECASAZZA.COM](http://ALLIECASAZZA.COM)



# PURGE THE TOYS

## WHY DEPRIVING YOUR KIDS OF TOYS IS A GREAT IDEA

- 01** Fosters gratitude
- 02** Kids learn to take better care of what they have
- 03** It trains them to focus on the important things in life, versus materialism
- 04** Free time fosters imagination and creative play

“It is a happy talent to know how to play.”

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*”



## PURGE THE TOYS

- Teaches kids that it's okay for them not to be constantly entertained. They learn to make their own fun, be self-starters, figure things out for themselves and not need Mommy for every little thing.
- Gets them out in nature a lot more.
- Children will develop longer attention spans. There was an experiment done on this in Germany. They took all toys out of a classroom, and even though boredom set in initially, the children quickly making up games, using their imaginations, and creating their own fun. My kids absolutely play for much longer without toys.
- Children are naturals at this. Giving them toys that do the imagining for them trains them to need to be entertained and actually kills their natural tendency to come up with things on their own.
- Establishes better social skills. They are forced to interact with siblings and friends face-to-face.
- Kids become more resourceful. In life, you aren't given the solution to problems, you're given the tools to figure it out yourself. Fewer toys teaches kids to solve problems with only the materials at hand. Resourcefulness is a gift with unlimited potential.



## PURGE THE TOYS

- I, as their mom, feel less of a burden to keep them busy throughout our days at home.
- I have seen their imaginations bloom. They come up with the most amazing stories and scenarios that they create out of random things in the house or that they find.
- Develops a greater love of books, writing, and art.
- We all want our kids to grow up to be good human beings, anti-materialism is a great step in that direction.

I like what Joshua Becker says of Becoming Minimalist, says...

*I'm not anti-toy, but I am pro-child, so do your kids a favor and take away their toys. Just don't tell them you got the idea from me.*



## WHY ORGANIZATION DOESN'T WORK AND ISN'T A SOLUTION

There is still stuff you don't need that will eventually end up back on the floor or wherever you don't want it.

You can't just get rid of a few things your kids don't play with or are broken and re-organize the rest. You need to purge or none of the benefits we talked about will happen.

You can't just de-clutter to reap these benefits, you need to de-own.

### THE 4 STEPS

**01**

*Talk to your kids*

**02**

*Decide what to purge and what to keep*

**03**

*Get a handle on the incoming flow of toys*

**04**

*Get in the habit of purging regularly*



## TALK TO YOUR KIDS

*Keep in mind, you are the parent, they are the child. It is your responsibility to ensure they grow up to be good humans, and while it's not true that toys will turn them into bad people, you're making a parental decision for their own good, and the child needs to understand and respect that.*

*Too much of any good thing isn't good. Just like TV won't really rot their brains, too much of it really isn't good for kids. The same goes for basically everything else, including toys.*

### **SHOULD YOU PURGE WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR KIDS THERE?**

Know your kids. If you have a child who is overly-sensitive and would cry over every little toy being donated, maybe it's best to purge without them and talk to them when you can help them cope.

Consider their ages. Older kids may feel violated if you take away their things without them knowing about it. Talk to them, explain, let them have a say in what stays and what goes within reason. With little kids, it's usually best to just purge without them there and talk to them about it after. Make it sound fun, not boring.

Keep in mind that it's good for kids who are old enough to understand to see the purging process. If they can handle it, let them be a part so they can see how much was just taking up space and not being played with. This can help them later understand why the incoming flow of toys has stopped and your family lifestyle has changed. It can also help to give the toys away to children who are in need, encouraging sympathy and making them feel like they're a part of something big.



## DECIDE WHAT TO PURGE AND WHAT TO KEEP

### WHAT TO KEEP

- Toys that are beloved by your child. There's usually one or two toys that a child, especially a really young child, considers very valuable and special. You don't want to scar them.
- Toys that inspire constructive & imaginative play.
  - Trains and tracks
  - Race car tracks
  - Blocks and Legos
  - Dress-up clothes
  - Books in good condition
  - Art supplies and puzzles
  - Outdoor toys (within reason)

*If your child has these things, but doesn't play with them, it's probably because he's been used to playing with toys that do the imagining for him. Take those away and I guarantee he will start to play with these things.*

### KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF AS YOU PURGE:

1. *Is this toy adding to my child's life in a positive way?*
2. *Is this toy played with every day?*
3. *Is this toy valued and looked for when it goes missing?*



## DECIDE WHAT TO PURGE AND WHAT TO KEEP

### **WHAT TO PURGE**

- All the random toys
  - Happy Meal toys
  - Broken toys
- Old toys that are no longer played with
- Toys you want your child to play with, but they don't
- Big toys that take up room
- Anything and everything you answer "no" to when you ask the 3 key questions

### **WHAT TO DO WITH WHAT YOU PURGE**

- Sell it
- Donate it
  - Goodwill
  - Church kids club/nursery
  - Daycare
  - A friend
- Throw it away

### **HANDLING BIRTHDAYS & CHRISTMAS**

1. *Is this toy adding to my child's life in a positive way?*
2. *Is this toy played with every day?*
3. *Is this toy valued and looked for when it goes missing?*



## GET A HANDLE ON INCOMING FLOW OF TOYS

### **HANDLING TOYS FROM WELL-MEANING RELATIVES**

Tell people. Explain what you're doing and set that boundary. Most people will respect your parenting and ask what else they can bless your kids with.

If someone doesn't, you've already explained your lifestyle to them, and can do what you will with the incoming toys without guilt.

I have found if I explain how we want the kids raised, relatives are impressed and respectful, and then I have more people contributing to our stash of creative and artistic play items.

Know that changing the way your family lives is going to be an adjustment for everyone involved, including relatives. I have found that sometimes the other adults in our extended family throw fits like the kids do!

It's different, it's uncomfortable, and they might feel like you're depriving them of loving your kids, which is totally untrue.

Be gracious and calm about it, and point out how much your child loves art, or reading, or playing outside. Tell them how much your kids would love a one year membership to a local fun zone.

Continue to be positive and calm, and remember that YOU ARE THE PARENT. Don't undo all the hard work you did in yourself and in your child's life/heart just because it's a special time of year. Be purposeful in your gift-buying!



## GET IN THE HABIT OF PURGING REGULARLY

Purging is something I now do every few months, as well as weekly just as I go through the house cleaning up.

I have much less cleaning to do throughout the day, I almost never have to pick up because there just isn't much for anyone to leave out, and what there is is very easy for the kids to pick up and put away themselves.

My to-do list is very short, and I'm able to focus on the basic tasks that come with being a homemaker.

I spend so much more time with the kids and find myself frustrated with them less.

### WHEN THE TOYS KEEP COMING, YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

- 01** *Take your child with you to donate those things to needy children or a thrift store.*
- 02** *Let your child play with it, and when it's old news and they get sick of it, get rid of it.*
- 03** *If it becomes a toy that is very loved and valued, let it run its course. Be strict on allowing this though! It's all too easy to end up right back where you started.*



*It's YOUR time to make  
this happen. I'm rooting  
for you!*

xo Allie