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# Age Appropriate Chores

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Consider these possibilities of how to develop autonomy, confidence, and independence through chores with your children. Because children develop at different speeds, this is simply a general guideline: parents should supervise and apply their best judgment.

## AGES 2-3

### PERSONAL CHORES

- Clean bedroom by categories  
*(i.e. books, trash, dirty clothes, toys, etc.)*
- Put toys downstairs where they go
- Line up shoes by the back door
- Dictate thank you notes

### TEAM CHORES

- Fold washcloths
- Sweep the front steps
- Fill pet's water bowl
- Dust
- Pick up trash inside and outside
- Organize library books on shelf
- Help set table
- Empty plastics from dishwasher

## AGES 4-5

### PERSONAL CHORES

- Get dressed *(prearrange drawers for easy access and obvious seasonal selection)*
- Make bed
- Clean under bed
- Organize bookshelf neatly
- Make easy snacks
- Sort clean laundry in piles by type  
*(don't worry about folding)*
- Color pictures as thank you notes

### TEAM CHORES

- Feed pets
- Carry things from car to house
- Empty silverware from dishwasher
- Clear table
- Sweep under table
- Match socks
- Water plants
- Weed garden
- Help younger siblings
- Scrub cabinets or floorboards with soapy sponge
- Wipe handles and switches with baby wipes

## AGES 6-7

### PERSONAL CHORES

- Make bed daily
- Clean room daily
- Put own laundry away
- Brush teeth after meals
- Style own hair in morning
- Pick weather-appropriate outfit
- Write thank you notes
- Pack lunch or snack
- Pack for sports practice using a list
- Help sort own laundry into washer
- Strip sheets off the bed

### TEAM CHORES

- Wet-mop floors
- Vacuum
- Help prepare food
- Empty indoor trash
- Answer phone with manners
- Greet and dismiss guests at door with manners
- Exercise pet within the house/yard
- Empty whole dishwasher (*except knives; glassware on counter if too high*)
- Rake leaves
- Peel vegetables
- Wipe handles/sinks/switches with disinfectant wipes and gloves
- Collect mail
- Clean windows/mirrors with glass cleaner
- Collect garbage
- Read aloud to siblings
- Fold rags and towels
- Replace batteries

## AGES 8-9

### PERSONAL CHORES

- All personal hygiene
- Use alarm clock
- Responsible for own homework (*finish lesson*)
- Responsible for library card and account
- Get own sports gear ready for practice without help
- Do own laundry
- Apply basic first aid
- Put sheets on bed
- Manage personal items (*like charging devices*)
- Save money without supervision

### TEAM CHORES

- Remember family birthdays
- Keep track of calendar events
- Prepare easy meals
- Wash dishes
- Empty dishwasher
- Sterilize kitchen counters
- Take trash to curb and back
- Sterilize bathroom counters
- Clean toilet
- Wipe floors
- Sweep porch

## AGES 10-11

### PERSONAL CHORES

- Manage your weekly laundry cycle
- Write invitations
- Balance bank account
- Donate to charity
- Communicate between coaches/teachers and parents

### TEAM CHORES

- Wash dog
- Put groceries away
- Vacuum car
- Learn deep cleaning
- Change light bulbs
- Clean tub/shower
- Wash family car

## AGES 12+

### PERSONAL CHORES

- Communicate schedule in advance
- Manage time
- Complete work before play without supervision
- Mend clothes
- Invest savings

### TEAM CHORES

- Mow lawn
- Snow blow driveway
- Assist in large yard work projects
- Iron clothes
- Watch younger siblings
- Make balanced family meals
- Paint
- Help with simple home repairs (*using tools like a drill, hammer, wrench, screwdrivers, and allen wrench*)
- Clean out refrigerator