

HOW TO GET YOUR STUDENT ORGANIZED

EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ORGANIZED. Some children do not understand what it actually means or what it looks like to be organized. Compare an organized space to an unorganized space in your home. Or, ask them to compare the pictures below. Ask them what they notice about the rooms, the things in the room, and the children. Is there trash, clutter, room to work?



TASK: Help your student organize their workspace and take a before and after photo so they can see the difference. Also, reference what an organized work space means such as: pens/pencils/markers/crayons in a container, papers organized in folders or binders, books and notebooks closed and stacked, computers placed in a safe spot with cords and an outlet nearby, and no trash.

SHOW IMPACT OF ORGANIZATION. Get your student invested in the importance of organization and the reasons for it. Talk to your child about how being organized is a time saver and makes life easier.

TASK: Before organizing their work space do a timed scavenger hunt. Make a list of things to find in their cluttered space. Time them finding the items before and after their space is organized. Afterwards compare times, energy, and effort used with hunting for items before and after the organization happened, how they felt hunting in the disorganized space compared to the organized space, and finally what will they do with the "extra" time organization brings.

CREATE THEIR OWN PERSONAL PLAN TO IMPROVE ORGANIZATION. Building good habits can take time and children often need our help. Regular check ins help monitor and facilitate the upkeep of their space. Recognizing their efforts, not expecting perfection, and being positive will help reinforce skills.

TASK: Discuss with your child how they will keep their space organized. This may include daily or weekly cleanups, learning to put things away after using them, and positive reinforcements.