



Better Birthdays

Give new household jobs as birthday gifts, along with something to help with doing the job.

Age 1: Put away toys. Give a BASKET and/or BOOK BIN (stand books on edge).

Age 2: Learn how to dust. Give a colorful DUST CLOTH or FEATHER DUSTER and a HOOK to hang it on. Window sills, floor moldings, and chair rungs are great places for two year olds to "work."

Age 3: Make the bed. Give a special SET OF SHEETS.

Age 4: Put away clothes. Give DRAWER DIVIDERS and HANGERS.

Age 5: Begin helping in the kitchen at least once a week. Give an APRON, COOKBOOK, TRAYS.

Age 6: Learn to clean sinks and toilets. Give CARRYALL with CLEANING SUPPLIES.

Age 7: Learn to sort laundry. Give SOCK BAGS, STAIN STICKS, LAUNDRY BASKETS.

Age 8: Learn to scrub floors. Give BUCKET, MOP, TOOTHBRUSH, SCRAPER.

Age 9: Learn basic sewing; home repairs. Give real TOOLS.

Age 10: Learn meal planning and shopping. Give NUTRITION GUIDE, NOTEBOOK, COUPON HOLDER.

Age 11: Learn how to organize cupboards and shelves. Give INDEX CARDS, LABELS, ORGANIZING BOOK.

Age 12: Learn to iron clothes: Give PRESSING MITT, IRON, SMALL IRONING BOARD, HANGERS.

As appropriate:

Paint a Room: PAINT BRUSH, MINI-ROLLERS.

Weeding/Yard Work: GARDENING GLOVES, RAKES, SHOVELS.

Car Work: TIRE GAUGE, FUSES, HYDRAULIC JACK, JUMPER CABLES, REPAIR MANUAL.

Files: FILE BOX or CABINET, FILE FOLDERS