



Systems work.

We just have to find the systems that work best in our family. This means you should expect to adjust any family system to suit your family.

Each of these prompts and questions are a guide to get you thinking about your **family laundry system**. There will be some you'll laugh and smile at and some you might realize you've not tried yet. My hope is you connect with them all.

We carry a lot of reasons why we do things in our head and our children are oblivious. We usually have a reason. Part of being a together connected family is in the sharing of ideas and being able to see things from various points of view. Laundry is one valuable practice.

The school age years are a really good time to work on progress, stumble and struggle, fail and succeed because there's time. Character is strengthened and essential perseverance skills are given a full workout.

This isn't a blueprint or checklist that if you complete each one, in order everything will work out. I hope that you'll add more, amend and make this family laundry system part of what you do over time in your family. Not boom! Here's a new thing we're doing but gradually over time everyone is incorporated.



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Melitsa Avila

www.play-activities.com/laundrysystem



Whatever age or stage find somewhere to start that's appropriate for your child.

Toddlers and Preschoolers

Sorting white and another dominant color

Balling socks to go in

Pairing socks that come out

Rolling up the lint and checking the jam for LEGO presents

Notes:

Kindergarten and Early School age

Emptying the load of laundry into the basket

Transferring the load into the drier

Learning to shake clothes to reduce the creases

Carefully right arms and legs of clothes so they are the right way for washing or drying

Hanging towels on a washing line or line dryer with pegs

Folding towels, sheets, rags and other regular shaped items.

Experimenting with using hangers for tops

Buttoning the top button if hanging a shirt

Your family system for where each item goes and whether it is hung, folded into a draw or in a basket.

An introduction to the family laundry basket system whether it is individual baskets for each child, a family basket or baskets that represent categories like whites or sports kit etc..

School aged

Observing and opportunities to try hanging clothes on a line to dry or airer attached to a radiator or free standing clothes drier.

Get to know how long things take to dry in your climate, if outside, if windy, if humid, if hung from the radiator or banister as well as how long in a tumble drier

Are there any great hotspots in the house to dry things quickly?

Where do you hang the one or two things if hand washed ?

What are the common wash cycles and how long do they last?

How long is it from wash to wear for a load of laundry?

Which wash cycles to stay away from as they go for hours?

Why you run a washer full.

The delight of a balanced load vs. an unbalanced load on spin.

School aged (cont..)

Any limits to washing or wearing of clothes per week

Which products your family uses for particular washes?

Talk about unit price and value versus luxury. Many children may love or accept the luxury now but will probably need to have the value experience when they first leave home.

Benefits of different color washes

Notes:

Prompts

This is the washer and drier aisle. We use _____
(insert your preferred brand) can you see it?/ can we find
it?/ Can you find it?

It comes in _____ (talk about the size or the name) I
prefer this one because_____.

We also buy _____ (whichever add on- bleach,
etc) that's over here.

I prefer _____ because or Quality is the most important
thing so I'll always get _____ or Many times
value is the most important things so I need to check the
sales and unit prices.