

S E P T E M B E R
N E W S L E T T E R

INVITATIONS FOR LEARNING

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Clean Up Time is NOT the most important part of the day!

Avoid sending messages, verbally and nonverbally, that children who clean up are better than children who do not!

Ex. "I like the way Sara is picking up"

or

"Look at John, he is busy picking up"

Clean up time is one of the most debatable transition issues. When children are asked to clean up toys, the act of cleaning up uses a different part of the brain than getting toys out. It is a very complex and difficult task.

Piaget said that children have to develop "reversibility" before they are capable of reversing actions. When a child gets out a puzzle and slams it against the table upside down, it doesn't mean that he/she knows how to reverse that action. If they do not have that cognitive skill they are most likely going to leave the puzzle unfinished. Children are often surprised when the adult says, "Don't forget to finish your puzzle and put it where it belongs."

The argument for cleaning up, that is often expressed by adults, is that it prepares children for the future. There is no evidence that cleaning up as a young child produces adults who are better at cleaning up. In reality sometimes the opposite occurs.

If clean up time is the major focus, children are not going to want to play with anything for fear they might have to pick it up.

Adults often give the message that children who "pick up" are better than children who do not "pick up." Is that really true? I am hoping that adults are looking for creative, playful, energetic, lively children that might need to play with lots of material without regard to worrying about cleaning it up.....

For more information on workshops contact me at: DKJ5075@aol.com.
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Clean Up Tips:

- *Adults should plan on doing most of the cleaning up*
- *Do not expect that all children will finish playing at the same time*
- *Make individual warnings rather than group announcements*
- *Do not expect that children will clean up the way you would*
- *Avoid flicking the lights, it sends children messages, especially boys, to run around fast*
- *Let children who want to help with the clean up process assist*
- *Use visual warnings, especially for boys, ex. Picture cards of children picking up*