



all kids belong
Inclusion Support Services

Have you thought of trying: TIDY UP

Remember: Teaching young children to clean up after themselves is an important part of the classroom. Time spent teaching “the how and why” is worthwhile because it can make the program run more smoothly.

- Do you take the children on a “room tour” so they know what materials are available and where they belong?
- Do you give a 5 minute warning before tidy up time using visual and auditory cues (flashing lights, 5 minute hand, song, etc.)?
- Do you label shelves, bins, and buckets so children know where things go (with pictures and words)?
- Do you encourage the children to clean up the messy areas during play time?
- Do you put closed signs on areas that have been tidied?
- Do you teach the children how to tidy up (put a variety of toys in a pillow case, and during group time pull an item out one at a time and have the children put it away)?
- Do you make clean up fun (race against the timer, count)?
- Do you assign specific clean up jobs to the children (pick a centre to clean up out of a hat)?
- Do you model how to tidy up?
- Do you give positive reinforcement during tidy up time?
- Do you have a room inspector to check areas that have been cleaned up already (provide one child with a special necklace or badge to wear while on duty)?
- Do you provide space to put unfinished projects to complete later?
- Do the children know what to do when they are done tidying?

This sheet was created by the All Kids Belong team based on their years of knowledge and experience. If you have any further questions about tidy up time, please talk to your All Kids Belong Resource Consultant.