

Habits of Learning



Organization

Everything has a place.

Dear Parents and Teachers:

The Habits of Learning lessons are meant to be taught over a 5 day period. Lessons are scripted and require little preparation time. Notes to you, the teacher, are given in dark blue. The script is written in black. Before each lesson, gather or print any materials listed. Then, simply read the lesson aloud and follow the blue instructions.

This week you will choose one organization project to tackle as a group. I would suggest a small project, something that can be organized in a few minutes and that will be simple to revisit during the week. You will use the selected project as a practice area for the habit of organization. After you have completed this week's lessons, you can use the exploration activities to complete other projects.

DAY ONE: INTRODUCTION

Over the last two weeks, we have learned about Responsibility and Respect. The two habits are character traits that will help you during your whole life. This week we will be learning about a very hands-on habits called Organization. The mantra for Organization is

"Everything has a place."

Can you say that with me? (*Say mantra together*) Organization is very important for our ability to learn. When we are organized it brings peace to our hearts and focuses to our minds.

Today, we will read a book together to help us understand the importance of organization. (*Choose a book from one of the recommended picture books, video links are on the blog.*)

MATERIALS BY DAY:

1. Picture book from literature list OR a device to play a video of one of the picture books. (Link to video books are on the blog) Phone or camera to take a picture.
2. Boxes, bins, baskets, or shelves on which to organize selected area. Something to make labels with: tape, stickers, paper, label maker, etc. "How to Organize" sign from the resource section.
3. Print the pictures of Benjamin Franklin and his schedule. Print the organization skills checklist. Optional: Benjamin Franklin video.
4. Age-appropriate organization tips list. Organization goal sheet.
5. Cut out pieces of the matching game.



DAY ONE: CONTINUED

Wow! Things got pretty crazy without organization. Remember, when everything has a place, our hearts have peace, and our minds have focus.

This week, I would like to take an organizational journey. We are going to tackle one organizational project together. Let's think together about one area of our home (could say: classroom, life, day) that needs some organization.

Guide the students in brainstorming ideas for the organizing project. Keep things small and very manageable. The key here is success! Don't take on a project so big that you will fail. Set yourself up for success.

Great! We have selected our project for the week. Let's take a before picture of the area we will organize this week. This will help us remember how much progress we have made together.

If you are repeating this lesson, select a new book from the resource section to present on day one.

“Cleaning and organizing is a practice, not a project.” - Meagan Francis

HOW TO ORGANIZE

1) Dump

Dump our everything in the area you are going to organize.

2) Trash

Pick out any trash or items you would like to donate. Put them in the trash or donation box.

3) Sort

Sort the items. This sort can be by color, size, kind, or use. Think carefully about what will be easiest to keep up with, especially for young children.

4) Contain and Label

Choose a container, shelf, or cupboard for each sorted group. Use labels (words or pictures) to designate the area. (Labels are key!)

5) Put Away

Put away each sorted group into the chosen and labeled area.

DAY TWO: DIVING IN

Today we are going to dive into our Organization project. This project is going to help us practice our organizational skills. Let's review our Organization mantra. Say it with me:

“Everything has a place.”

Wonderful! Let's put this mantra into practice. When we organize something, we can follow basic steps, so we don't get overwhelmed by the process. (Display the “How to Organize” sign from the resource section.)

Here are five easy steps to help us organize. We will do them together as we organize this area. Okay, here we go! This is the best part... let's dump everything out!

Great work. Now, we will look quickly through this pile for any trash or things we want to give away. Put the trash in here (garbage bag) and put the things you don't want any more in here (donation box).

Nice work, two steps down and three to go! Now, we need to sort. How can we sort these items? Do any of these items go together? (Really let your children answer these questions; help them take ownership of this process.) Sounds good! Let's do it! Now let's sort out this pile by _____. (You choose how to sort the items. You might choose colors, shape, size, kind, etc. Note that sorting by kind, although easy for adults, can be hard for children. You might consider color, size or shape. Just think about what is easiest to keep up with and most functional for the items. ALSO, make sure the children are doing the sorting, not you! Sorting is the fundamental skill of organization.)

That was pretty good sorting. Now we will choose where to put each of these piles. (You choose, bins, baskets, boxes, shelves, cupboards, etc.) I am going to label each of these _____ so that we remember where to put things.

Okay, our last step. Can you put each pile away! (Make sure the child does this step! This brings the learning home!) Wonderful work. You did that all by your self. You are an organizational master. Now we know that “Everything has a place” in our _____.



DAY THREE: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

We have been learning all about organization this week! Who can tell me what our mantra is for organization? ([Look for answers.](#)) Great. Let's say it together, "Everything has a place."

I am so proud of the progress we made on our organization project yesterday. Let's go together and check to make sure things are still organized. If anything is out of place, can you help me get things organized again? ([Quickly, go check the area or item you organized. Have the children fix anything that is out of order.](#))

Today I am going to tell you all about someone extraordinary. His name was Benjamin Franklin. ([Show the picture from the resource section](#)) Benjamin Franklin was a key founder of the United States of America. He was also a scientist, inventor, and philosopher. Although he had to leave school when he was just 10 years old, he kept reading, experimenting, and thinking deeply throughout his life. Benjamin Franklin was a fantastic statesman, writer, thinker, and leader.

I am sure there are many reasons Benjamin Franklin became a great man, but one of them was because he was organized. Here is a picture of his daily schedule. What are some things that you notice? ([Guide students to notice things like: routines, prioritizing healthy eating and sleep, "put things in their place"/clean up and organizing time, focus questions, reflection, etc. \)](#)

Benjamin Franklin demonstrated the habit of organization. Let's look at this list of organizational skills and see which ones we think Benjamin Franklin practiced. ([Show the students the organizational tips page and check off areas that were demonstrated by Benjamin Franklin.](#))

Benjamin Franklin was an amazing man. We have learned some important lessons from him. Tomorrow, we will look at applying those lessons to our life.

Let's review our Organization mantra: "Everything has a place." Well done!

[If you have the time, you also might consider watching a short biographical video on Benjamin Franklin. Links are included on the blog video resources page.](#)

NINE TIPS FOR DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS IN CHILDREN

- 1) Develop a routine, not a schedule. Schedules are great, but once you "get off" you feel defeated. Set up routines without a strict time table.
- 2) Use a checklist for everything (morning routine, getting ready for bed, doing school work) If it needs to be done, it needs a checklist.
- 3) Prioritize by numbering school assignments (or any other required tasks) in the order they need to be done.
- 4) Designate a space (school workspace, toys space, reading space, etc.) for important activities and items.
- 5) Set aside time (school work time, playtime, reading time, eating time, etc.)
- 6) Color code (toy bins, school binders, bookshelves, clothing drawer, etc.) Color coding is the easiest way to sort.
- 7) Conduct a weekly clean-up. Set a time, day, and time limit to conduct an organizational blitz.
- 8) Keep a master calendar in a place everyone can see and check. Color code by person or activity.
- 9) Prepare the night before. As part of your evening checklist (see #2), prepare for the next day.

BIBLE VERSES ABOUT ORGANIZATION

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Proverbs 20:25

The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

Proverbs 10:4

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent

DAY FOUR: ORGANIZATION GOAL

We have made some excellent progress on our habit of Organization this week. Let's say the mantra together. "Everything has a place."

Nice work. Let's go over to our organizational project area and make sure it is in good shape.

(Check area together.)

Good work. You are all doing a nice job at keeping that area organized.

Yesterday we learned about Benjamin Franklin and some of his super organizational skills. We saw how Benjamin Franklin did lots of different things to stay organized.

Learning to be organized can take a long time, but it is worth it. In the Bible, we learn that "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Also is 1 Corinthians 14:40 its says, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

These verses tell us that God wants use to be organized.

Let's look at this list of organizational tips and see which one we want to get better after this week of study.

Choose the age-appropriate list and choose an area to focus on. Use the goal sheet to record the chosen area.

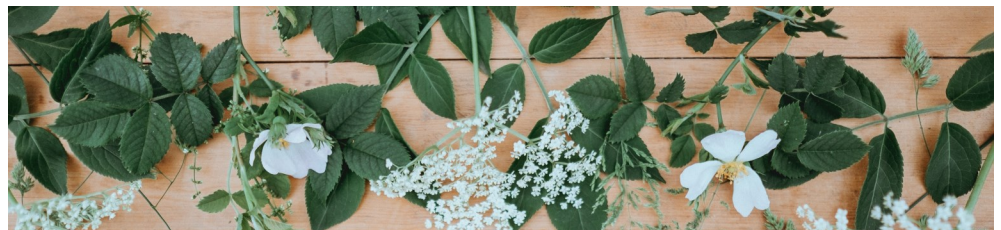
That is an excellent organization skill to develop. Let's write it here on this goal sheet. Will you draw a picture of yourself doing this skill?

(Draw a picture: you could also take a picture of the child doing the skills, or make a collage from magazine pictures of someone doing the skills.)

Nice work! All of these organizational skills are important and you are going to get really good at this one. I am proud of your choice!

Let's say the mantra together one more time: "Everything has a place!"

Nice work!



DAY FIVE: REVIEW AND GAME

I have enjoyed learning about organization with you. Let's say our mantra together one more time: "Everything has a place."

Now, lets hurry and check the area we organized this week and see how we are doing at keeping it organized. (Check and fix anything that needs to be put away.)

Great! It's looking pretty good. The next thing we need to review is our goal. What was the goal we set yesterday? (Review the goal and the picture. If you are doing this in a large classroom setting, review the goals in pairs or small groups.)

Wonderful. I think you will all do great as you work towards your organization goals.

The last thing I want us to think about is WHY we want to be organized. We will play a little matching game to help us learn about WHY we want to be organized.

DAY FIVE: CONTINUED

This game works like memory, but not with pictures. One card will give a situation and the matching card will give the consequence (or result) of that situation. We want to match up the situations and the consequences.

(If you are doing this with younger children, you will need to read the cards aloud. Also, you might consider using fewer situations. If your children are pre-school-aged, color code the matching cards. They are just beginning to learn about organization — yes they will just be matching the colors, but you will be reading the situations and consequences. This game is just a first exposure to the consequences of organization.)

Excellent job playing the game. When we are organized, we feel less stressed, get more done, learn more, and people trust us. I know that we can all work together to improve our organizational skills.

Let's say our Organization mantra one more time: "Everything has a place."
Wonderful!

Organization isn't about perfection. It's about efficiency, reducing stress & clutter, saving time & money, and improving your overall quality of life.

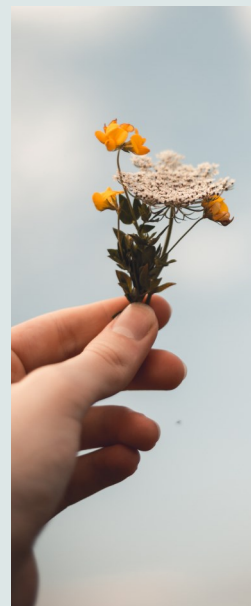
— Christina Scalise.

*"Get rid of the weeds and foster the flowers."
- Charlotte Mason*

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- ⇒ Copy work pages
- ⇒ Quote memorization
- ⇒ Scripture memorization
- ⇒ Create a book using one of the included poems
- ⇒ Read a book from the book list and complete a narration (oral or written)
- ⇒ Watch one of the optional videos about Benjamin Franklin
- ⇒ Complete the nature study sheets to explore the order in nature

Detailed instructions and needed worksheets for each exploration activity are given in the resource packet.



A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

The Habits of Learning © program was inspired by the formation of *A One-Room Schoolhouse: A Hybrid Homeschool Academy*. As the Schoolhouse program took shape, the founder, Genevieve Peterson, knew the program needed a proactive habit training curriculum to help shape her children and those that would join them. Her desire to instill fundamental, lifelong learning habits with simple, daily instruction and practice inspired The Habits of Learning © program.

Follow our journey on Facebook & Instagram @aoneroomschool

Genevieve blogs weekly at www.aoneroomschoolhouse.com

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www.aoneroomschoolhouse.com

E-mail:
info@aoneroomschoolhouse.com



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HABITS OF LEARNING ©

Education is more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. Although a basic understanding of curricular objectives is important, it is also imperative to develop the lifelong habits needed to learn. In order to continue education beyond the classroom habits of learning must be developed and maintained.

This curriculum has two parts: direct, scripted lessons of ten Habits of Learning to be used in the home or classroom and a progress monitoring grid of these ten habits. The lessons are “open-and-go” with little preparation and few materials. They are designed for ease of use with high efficacy in implementation. The lessons can be taught over a ten-week period, but are designed to be repeated as often as needed. A nondenominational, Christian view is intertwined throughout the lessons. All scripture references are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. Lessons and activities are designed to be used in a multi-age classroom setting but can also be done one-on-one.

The progress monitoring grid is used to help students and teachers/parents reflect on the child’s habits of learning. Stages of habit development are given with specific criteria to monitor growth. Students first learn, then explore the habit. Then after practicing the habit, move on to become motivated in that area of growth. Finally, the student moves to mastery of the habit. Once mastery has been accomplished, the student is encouraged to become a mentor to others to promote mastery in all students.

This program of personal development is based on the most current research in behavior intervention, historical wisdom of great educators, and years of practical experience in both the educational and therapeutic settings of the author. Specifically, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) heavily influenced this work as it provides a process to understand and develop positive behavior in students that is based on both values and empirical research. Both the model of classical education and the work of Charlotte Mason are melded together when considering teaching methods and behavioral development. Finally, the author’s years of professional experience as a school physiologist, education director, and special education teacher honed this curriculum.

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