

Toys, continued

Assuming your kids are old enough to clean up after themselves, I highly recommend the following method of curbing clutter, and that is to confiscate whatever is left out. Toys, shoes, laptops, school books...whatever is causing a mess, confiscate it. When we had more kids at home we had a bin for wayward belongings. If an item was left out & I had to pick it up, it went in the bin. The owner could do a chore to "earn" it back. If it was so unimportant that they didn't care to do a chore for it, the item would get donated after a week or two. The chores weren't fun, either, but someone has to wash the baseboards so it may as well be those who are lower to the ground....

For things that "have to" be left out, like game systems, consider investing in a couple storage ottomans. The games & controllers can be kept in the ottomans so you're not looking at piles of games & tangles of wires, and the ottomans can double as additional seating.

Each night before bed, have everyone put their stuff away. If it's done daily, it really only takes 10 minutes or so. It will be so worth it in the morning!