

Keeping your Home Show Ready

with Kids!

Keeping your home show ready is not an easy task. Add kids to the mix and it might feel darn near impossible! It is just plain hard. Be sure to give yourself and your kids grace as you do your best to show your home at its best to potential buyers. Here are a few suggestions to hopefully help, but we realize these tips might not work for every family. Remember to adjust these ideas according to your children's ages. Also, if you find something that works for you that isn't on this list we'd love to hear about it so we can pass it on to other clients.

Best Wishes!

Kristen & Joel

Prepare Your Kids In Advance:

Have a family conversation with your kids about why you are selling your home and what the pay off will be for a show ready home. Explain to them that often some will be coming to look at your home with short notice and it will take a team effort to make this happen.

Give Your Kids a Voice:

Make up a name for your "cleaning team". Brainstorm ways they can help you make your home show ready. Have kids come up with jobs they can be in charge of each time a "showing cleaning spree" needs to happen.

Reward Your Kids for their Help:

Let your kids come up with some things they feel would make a "cleaning spree" worth doing. Add your own ideas. Some ideas are a grab bag left in the car with toys, rewards, or treats your kids would like. They get to choose out of the bag every time you make it to the car on time. Give older kids money for helping you. Reward them with extra screen time. Put marbles in a family reward jar every time someone contributes and do something bigger as a family when the jar is full. (continue on next page...)



Clean Up Every Night:

Whether your kids are at home all day or they go to school, starting with a clean slate in the morning can be helpful. Make it a habit to do family pick up before bed. Give rewards for this cleaning, too.

Make it Fun:

Turn on some music and make it fun! Try to keep the stress out of it. Try to praise more than criticize. Reward generously.

Write a Note to the Potential Buyers:

A heartfelt handwritten note saying how hard your family tried to get the house ready on short notice and a picture of your family goes a long way with people. Write them up in advance and have your kids sign it too. Or better yet have one of your kids write it and make copies to leave out every time a buyer comes by.

Become Minimalists:

For the time that your home is on the market pair down significantly. Have only the number of plates, bowls, silverware, and glasses that your family needs for one meal. This forces you to have fewer items to clean up. Give your young kids one basket or small bin worth of toys to play with at a time. Go through closets and get rid of clothes or at least store unneeded ones. Give your kids only 9 days worth of everyday clothes and 1 set of nice clothes. Do the same for yourself. Most of all throw out, give away, or sell all excess items. You just might find it makes life a whole lot simpler. If needed rent a storage unit for the time being.



Desperate Times:

If push comes to shove have a closet ready to hide it all in. Grab baskets or boxes to put every thing in and then stack it in a closet or under a bed. Take care of it after you get back home.

Have an Escape Plan:

After all is cleaned up make sure you have a plan for where you are headed. Are you going to the library or perhaps McDonald's for lunch and the play structure. A park, coffee, and grandma's are other good options. Be sure to have a couple back up plans just incase.