Organizing the Family

“Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.”
[D&C 132:8](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/132.8?lang=eng#7)

“An orderly home is a home where parents preside, direct, and teach; where all have responsibilities and are considerate and thoughtful of each other; and where family members are knit together with love.” (FHE Manual, Lesson 20)

“Order comes to a home when everyone understands and carries out his responsibilities. The opposite of order is confusion. Confusion comes when people do not know what is expected of them.” (FHE Manual, Lesson 20)

ROUTINES: Families need schedules…but don’t forget to be flexible!

FAMILY ROUTINES ARE SO IMPORTANT!

\*Morning: wake up kids, personal prayers, family prayer, family scripture study, boys shower/ girls get dressed, boys get dressed/girls pick up room, breakfast/mom makes lunches, brush teeth/brush hair, shoes on/coats on/backpacks ready, head to the bus

 -use MUSIC to help kids know what they are supposed to be doing

\*Night: Dinner, clear table and dishes, girls shower/bath, jammies, night activity, family prayer, brush teeth, personal prayers, read, lights out.

WHAT IS YOUR FAMILIES ROUTINES?

PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

\*When planning activities for my family I try and remember the good better best talk from Elder oaks who said in October 2007, “We have to forego some good things in order to choose others that are better or best because they develop faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and strengthen our families.”

CHORES: To have a loving and happy family, each person must do his part. (FHE Manual, Lesson 20)

Building a strong family takes hard work, and part of that work is teaching our children how to work. Though some may see work as something to avoid, the gospel teaches that working for and with our families brings great blessings. God Himself calls His plan for His children “my work and my glory” ([Moses 1:39](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/moses/1?lang=eng#38)). (<https://www.lds.org/family/work?lang=eng>)

\*There are lots of chore charts you can print off the internet, buy from a store, or make with things from a craft store. Use whatever works best for you family!

BEST advice ever given to me is KEEP IT SIMPLE!

MEAL TIME: Menu planning…if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

\*Do what works for you….here are a couple ideas

-PLAN weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

-use the food nanny’s idea and give each night a theme…

 1. Family traditions 6. Breakfast 11. Soup

 2. BBQ 7. Kids choice 12. Sandwiches

 3. Italian 8. Pizza 13. Crockpot

 4. Mexican 9. Night out 14. Casserole

 5. Meatless 10. Leftovers 15. New recipe

-Make a list of meals and rotate through them

-plan meals together as a family on family night

-use a favorite cookbook and choose meals for the week

-use the weekly grocery store adds to make your menu-see what’s on sale and go from

there.

\*Teach your children to cook…give them a night during the week to practice their skills right alongside you! It’s fun!

2 week dinner planner:

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A COUPLE MORE THINGS:

Clothing swap: every conference I do a clothing swap. It’s just about the right time to pull out shorts for summer and long sleeve for winter. I have the whole weekend to try clothes on the kids and see what they need.

Keepsake tote: each child has a tote to keep things they want to save for their future family. When it gets full, it’s time to go through it ☺

Laundry: Use different colored hangers, smaller baskets for folded items so even the littlest helper can help. Have children help sort, switch laundry, and put away.

 -play a sock sorting game for FHE to see who can match the most socks ☺