

Start to Finish



Organization has to be learned. This activity lets children practice planning, beginning, and finishing a job—important parts of completing schoolwork.

What you'll need

- Pencil
- Paper
- Items used to do a job around the house, such as watering plants or setting the table

What to do

1. Together, select one job your child usually does around the house, such as watering plants.

Ask your child to write down or tell you the "Plan," "Do," and "Finish" steps needed to do the job well.

Look over these steps together and talk about possible changes.

2. See what happens if one plant isn't watered when it is supposed to be. How long does it take for the leaves to start changing color?
3. List the "plan," "do," and "finish" steps of one or two jobs you do around the house. Ask your child to help you think of ways to improve these steps.
4. When your children have a new task, help them plan the steps so they can do the job well and have a sense of accomplishment.

Sometimes taking time to plan seems like "a waste of time," but it has been shown that those who plan a job are usually more successful and do it in a shorter amount of time.



Seeing the changes from not watering a plant can introduce the idea of "cause and effect."