

#STEPHING *challenge*



WEEK FOUR KIDS TOYS & CRAFT

Kids craft and toys can easily get out of hand ...fast! Next thing you know every drawer you open is filled with drawings, paintings and the loungeroom is a toy warzone. Half of the toys are either broken, missing parts or the kids don't even look at them anymore. It's time to get it organised! Now how you decide to organise your kids crafts and toys is going to depend upon your house, lifestyle and family size. In this guide I'm going to give you a few different ways to do things and also show you how we organise the kids crafts and toys in our home.

kids artwork

I can't remember the last time the kids didn't bring home artwork from daycare. It doesn't take long to accumulate a lot and of course because it is sentimental it can be a hard category to cull. Here are a few ways you can store your kids' artworks. And then we can move onto their craft supplies at home.

1. DIGITAL COPIES

If you are limited with space and can't come to terms with parting with any artworks, then scan everything and keep a digital copy of them on a hard drive! Simply put them in files under the year! With anything digital make sure you have extra backups of this in case something ever happens to your devices.

Steph Pasc

2. MAKE INTO A BOOK

There are some amazing companies out there that can make your kids artwork into a keepsake book! You can also do this yourself by scanning them and putting them into a photobook such as Chatbooks!

3. SUSPENSION FILE HOLDER

This is what we do for our girls. We simply cull them down to the best ones and then label each file by year and store in a suspension file holder!

4. SCRAPBOOK

If you prefer to do things yourself, you can always stick the artwork into a scrapbook. You can then label the scrapbook by year. With this method you will have to cull the artwork down to the best bits.



craft supplies

Getting all your kids craft supplies organised will be one of the best things you ever do! You will be surprised how much more your kids will want to paint and draw when they have their own little craft section to choose from. Here are a few hacks I use to store the girls craft supplies.

Steph Pasc

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FILE/MAGAZINE HOLDERS

I use some cheap file holders to store the kids puzzles, Activity Books, drawing books, paper etc This keeps them all together and tidy.

STACKABLE TUBS

This is a super simple way to keep everything neat and tidy. Each tub we have is labelled with the contents such as;

- Paper
- Stickers
- Play Dough
- Kids Craft (for items like pipecleaners etc)



toys

Toys can be the bane of existence as a parent, they are absolutely everywhere.

Soon as you tidy them up, they are a mess again in two seconds.

Here are the systems I use for our girls toys and how we keep the mess manageable. I also need to add that we don't have a toy room, so I had to create a system that allows the girls to play and be kids. Whilst also having storage that allows it to be hidden at the end of the day.

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STEP ONE - *cull*



This step is always a given! Go through ALLL the toys in the entire house. We do this because you may not realise how many of one category the kids have. For example, do they really need 4 sets of blocks? This will allow you to gauge what you can donate.

STEP TWO - *categorise*

Place every toy into a category! This is going to be the system we will be storing them. The categories you have will differ from home to home. The categories we have in our house are:

- Dolls
- Play Sets
- Books
- Dress Ups
- Soft Toys
- Blocks
- Baby Toys
- Misc (for anything that doesn't fall into the above categories)

STEP THREE - *storage*

Now it's time to decide on how you are going to store it! I use a cheap 8 cube shelf from Kmart that I turned horizontally and then labelled cubes by categories. You can either label them with words or pictures to help the kids know where things go!

Steph Pasc



TOY ROTATION - *why do it?*

Toy rotating is life-changing! I do this every 3 months and to the kids it's like having a whole new house full of toys!

WHAT IS IT?

Toy rotating is changing the toys that the kids have access to. For us I keep majority in tubs in the garage and then when it comes time to rotating, I put the toys that were out in the loungeroom into those tubs and swap the toys around.

WHY DO IT?

This makes the kids feel like they get all new toys and activities to do every couple of months. This also stops you having too many toys out at once.

WHERE DO YOU KEEP ALL THE TOYS THAT AREN'T IN THE MAIN TOY AREA?

I have them labelled by category in sealed tubs in the garage.

I can't wait to see your progress! Don't forget to tag me and use the hashtag #stephinchallenge on Instagram to potentially win a \$50 Little Label Co voucher every week!

Steph Paise xx