

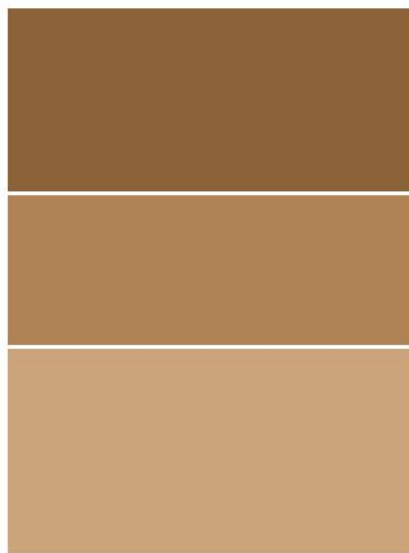
The Toddler-Proof Home Reset

Systems that survive small children, and that they can keep up themselves.

HEIGHT DECIDES EVERYTHING

With small children, storage is not decided by category but by reach. Anything a child can reach, they will reach, so the first question for every object is which of three bands it belongs in. Get that right and most childproofing stops being a daily argument.

Children can make keep-or-let-go decisions far earlier than adults expect, if you give them a defined space of their own and let them own it. A bin they can fill and empty themselves teaches the habit faster than any tidying you do for them after they have gone to bed.



ABOVE 5 FT

Sharp, hot, chokeable, chemical

3 TO 5 FT

Daily adult items, cups, keys, chargers

BELOW 3 FT

Only what a child may take out alone

floor

The Toddler-Proof Home Reset

The checklist

SAFETY, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE

these are not optional

- ☐ Anchor every dresser and bookcase to the wall
- ☐ Cleaning supplies above 5 ft or behind a latch, never under the sink
- ☐ Medicine in a latched box, not a drawer
- ☐ Cords wound and clipped, blind cords cleated high
- ☐ Nothing climbable in front of a high shelf, children build stairs

SYSTEMS A THREE-YEAR-OLD CAN RUN

if they cannot do it, it will not last

- ☐ Open bins, no lids to fight with
- ☐ Picture labels rather than words
- ☐ One category per bin, never a miscellaneous bin
- ☐ Toys stored at their height, not yours
- ☐ Clothes folded upright so they see every item without digging

GIVE THEM A SPACE THEY OWN

ownership is what makes it stick

- ☐ One shelf or one bin that is theirs to arrange
- ☐ Let them choose what leaves, even slowly
- ☐ Cap it: when the bin is full, one thing goes
- ☐ Thank an outgrown toy out loud before it leaves, they copy this

THE TEN-MINUTE NIGHTLY RESET

same order, every night

- ☐ Set a timer. It ends when the timer ends
- ☐ Everyone carries their own things to their own room
- ☐ Toys go back by bin, not sorted perfectly
- ☐ Clear one surface completely, usually the table
- ☐ Start the dishwasher with whatever is in it

STOP DOING THESE

they quietly cost you hours

- ☐ Sorting toys into categories a child cannot maintain
- ☐ Organizing while they are awake and undoing it
- ☐ Keeping broken toys for a repair that will not happen
- ☐ Storing outgrown clothes in the room you use every day