

tips for managing  
*Toy Clutter*



THREE WAYS TO DECLUTTER,  
ORGANIZE, AND MANAGE YOUR  
CHILDREN'S TOY COLLECTIONS

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## Are your kids' toys taking over your home?

It's amazing how much *stuff* comes with having a baby. Despite the fact that the child his- or herself takes up almost no space at all, the nursery furniture, activity mats, floor swings, Boppy pillows, and blanket baskets that tend to accompany the baby's arrival can fill up our living spaces quite quickly. **And then there's the toys.**



Although children's toys are important for fine and gross motor development, strengthening social play skills, encouraging number, letter, and color recognition, and increasing overall brain development, ***having too many toys in a space has been shown to lead to overstimulation and anxiety in kids.***

Additionally, when children are surrounded by large collections of toys, they tend to play for shorter periods of time with each individual item as they become more easily distracted by the next "shiny item" in the room. Because of this, children in crowded environments miss out on opportunities to explore their toys in deeply imaginative ways.

The simple truth is this:

***When it comes to children's toys, less is more.***

If you're struggling with managing the toy clutter in your home, here are some suggestions that may help.

## Suggestion #1: Declutter

First things first: **Thinning out your kids' toy collections will not make you a "bad parent".**

In fact, with a minimized toy collection, your kids will be able to see, access, and play more profoundly with toys that were once completely hidden away.



### things to consider while decluttering...

*Which toys are my kids neglecting to play with?*

If a certain toy has been accessible to your kids but has gone unused, it probably is not of interest to them anymore. Time to donate.

*Any missing or broken parts?*

If a toy is either missing pieces or is broken, it can be disposed of. Releasing the item altogether will trump the stress the clutter brings.

*How much is "just enough"?*

Avoid overflow by keeping an amount of toys that will fit into a designated toy storage space. When overflow occurs, so does overstimulation.

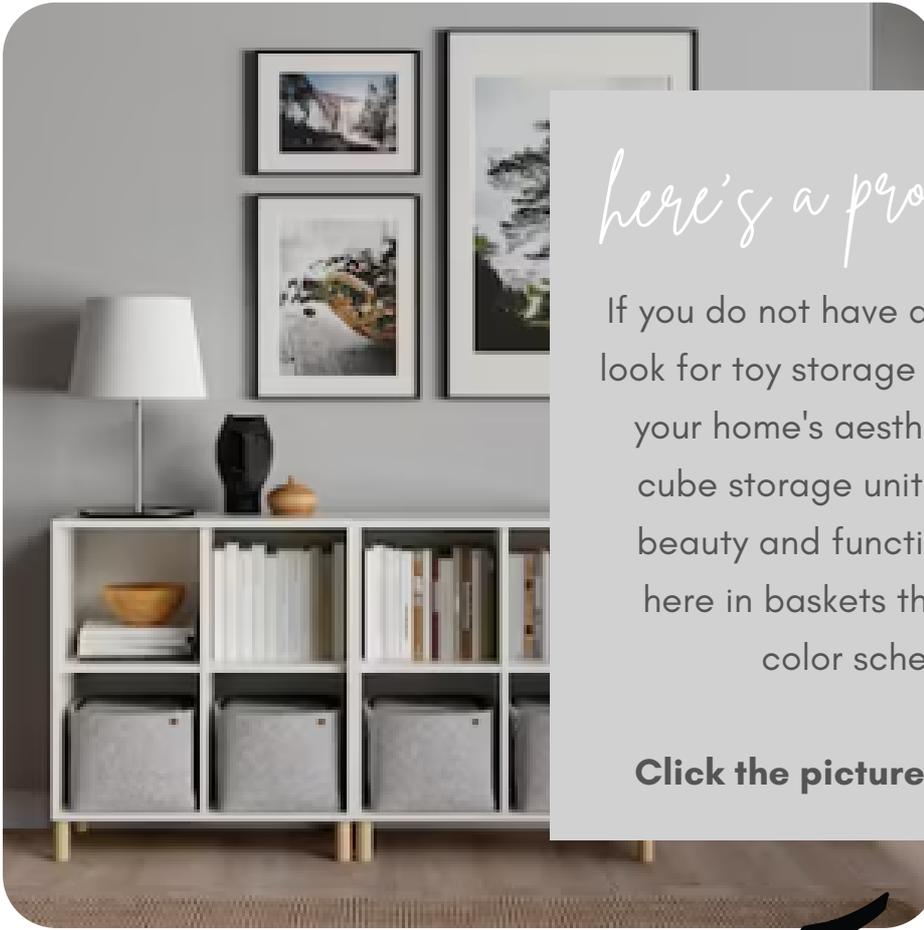
## Suggestion #2: Designate a Toy Storage Space

In order to reclaim space in your home and to feel less overwhelmed by your kids' toy clutter, *designate an area in your home where the toys will be stored.*

This will allow you to maintain peace and order in your common living space(s) as well as encourage your family members to develop clearer routines for toy clean-up.

**Here is a visual showing what designating a toy storage space may help you to accomplish:**





*here's a pro tip*

If you do not have a toy room in your home, look for toy storage furniture that fits in with your home's aesthetic. For example, this cube storage unit from IKEA offers both beauty and function; you can store toys here in baskets that match your unique color scheme and style.

**Click the picture for the product link!**

### *Suggestion #3: Offer Some Freedom*

Allowing your kids to keep their bedrooms the way they want may help to alleviate the stress *you* feel with toy clutter living in your common spaces. Giving them the freedom to explore their toys in their bedrooms and only holding them accountable to straighten up on certain days of the week (ie. Wednesdays and Sundays after dinner) will encourage autonomy and tidying habit formation with your children.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

This guide outlined three suggestions for decluttering and better managing your kids' toy clutter. Remember that decluttering your children's toy collections will not only decrease the stress you feel with the amount of items in your home, but it will also encourage more thoughtful play to be experienced by your little ones. *Too many toys benefits no one*, so give yourself and your family the gift of decluttering and reorganizing your play items today!

**If this guides motivates you to start your decluttering and organizing journey, I'd love to keep sharing tips and information with you!** You can find me here!



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Thank you!