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Presents a special Mother's Day  
weekend event for you and the  
women in your life...



# Fashion Style Event

**Saturday, May 12**  
**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Royal Melbourne Country Club**  
4700 Royal Melbourne Drive Long Grove, IL  
Off of Rt. 83, corner of Rt. 22 and Rt. 83

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For Women of the North & Northwest Chicago Suburbs

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When it comes to playrooms and toy rooms there are a number of organizing concerns that can be a challenge for youngsters and adults alike. Most of the time a playroom appears organized if all the building blocks and doll shoes are no longer on the floor. However, what happens when your tot comes running to Mom to make that special toy magically appear from all that mess called the "toy room?"

Thankfully, there are quite a few easy steps that can be applied to a home's play area. Whether the area consists of an entire room or part of the family room, it is possible to create an organized system of keeping track of all those toys and games your child loves. Even better for Mom and Dad, it can be a beautiful, relaxing space that everyone can enjoy!

### Fifteen Tips to a Pleasing Playroom

1. If there are multiple children using the space, use color coding to separate which toys belong to each child. For example, Johnny's toys are all inside the blue buckets and bins, while Susie's are in yellow.
2. Label, label, label! For children of reading age, help them practice their vocabulary by labeling toy bins and baskets, using words like "Dolls," "Dress up" and "Puzzles." For those who are still too young to read, but are able to help keep the play area neat, label items with pictures. These can be photographs of your actual toys, pictures cut from magazines or even from those your children have helped draw and color.
3. Don't be afraid to rearrange furniture. Not only can you better use your play space by moving some pieces around, but sometimes it is most helpful to add or subtract some pieces.
4. Think about where your child will be using each toy and place accordingly. Are there certain toys that need adult supervision? Place these toys out of reach. Are there certain toys that should only be used in a certain room or area of the house? Try to store these items as close to that space as possible.
5. Be creative! Use items that will make storage easier for everyone. This includes wall and door hooks for dress up, over-the-door shoe bags for small toys and bins that both adults and children can open and close properly.

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6. Remember vertical space! Although younger children will only be able to safely reach toys closer to floor level, adults and older children can easily utilize vertical space in the room. Some items might be easily hung from the ceiling while others might be placed safely on high shelves.

7. Sort like toys together. Create areas for each type of toy: stuffed animals, board games, electronics, etc. Try to create definite categories for each individual toy. Remember you want to place these toys where your child will be able to find them.

8. Keep your child involved! If your son or daughter is able to help decide where he/she would like the toy to live, it will be all the more likely to return to its home.

9. Get rid of some of those toys. If the toy has been missing clothes, parts or pieces long enough that no one cares to look anymore, donate or throw the toy away. Someone else might be able to love it just as much as your child used to. Also, only keep toys that are still age appropriate.

10. If you find that your child is not willing to give up certain toys, but there isn't enough space to house them, separate the entire lot of toys into groupings. Rotate these toys by season, month or when you realize your child is becoming bored with what he/she has access to. Store the other toys out of sight (garage, attic, etc.).

11. If showcasing your children's artwork is a concern, try covering a wall of the play area with an art-appropriate surface. If you'd like to rotate art from school and made at home, try using corkboards. If you'd like something even more temporary, paint the wall with chalkboard paint.

12. Take stock of what your child uses and loves after birthdays and holidays where new toys may enter the play room. If it won't all fit, let something go.

13. Set a good example. If Mom and Dad can keep their "toys" organized around the house, then the kids will be all the more likely to keep their belongings well kept.

14. When other children come to visit, make sure they understand any expectations you have for the play area. If old enough, involve the guest in cleaning up.

15. Keep up with you system! Whether this is a daily or weekly task will depend on how often the space is used. However, make sure that both child and adult are taking the time to make sure the system you have created is actually functioning and in place. Ideally, no more than 15 minutes a day.

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