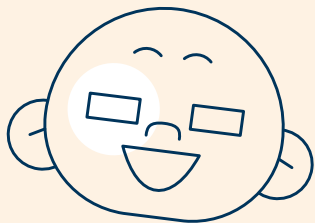


playbook

Home chores

inner
biome



015 Let the cleaning begin!

Warning: opening this playbook will result in a cleaner home. Inside, you'll find instructions on how to clean, tidy, and freshen everything up in a fun and engaging way. Kids will love it even more if you throw in a couple of your own cleaning ideas too!

Are you snowed under with dull home chores? Does cleaning up make your family feel down? We can fix it!

It can be hard to get started on a cleanup campaign. But not if you involve the kids and turn it into a fun process that feels more like a game than a duty.

age

3-10

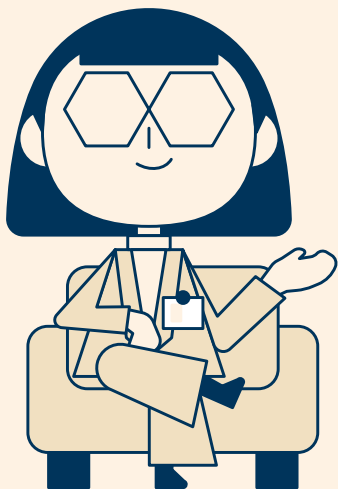


Scan the QR code on the back cover to access the digital version of this playbook.



Warnings

Every playoddity kit is designed as a children's experience that is guided by an adult. All the described activities require adult supervision. Safety instructions for each item in the kit can be found on the item's individual packaging.




WARNING!
Choking hazard:
Small parts
Not for children
under 3 years

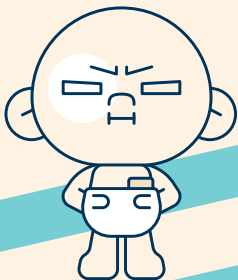


Adult supervision required





Hi, this is The Voice speaking. I'd like to remind you that the most important part of the playoddity experience is the child or children. Without them, you'll just be an adult playing games to avoid responsibilities. So put your phone away, and follow the instructions in this playbook for having a great time! The activities also work without the playbook, if you have your own ideas, but we suggest you have a look at ours first.



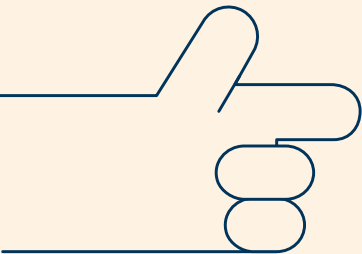
Without playbook



With playbook

Unboxing

Taking your home from "mess" to "best" is going to be fun, so you might want to share your pictures and videos of the process using #playoddity.



Each item in the kit has a colored sticker:

- Green sticker — item can be used by children and adults
- Red sticker — item should be used by adults only

If any items on the list are missing, or you have problems with any of the products, please get in touch.

Contents of this kit

- **01. Hourglass with liquid**
Is it only us, or does the liquid kinda look like dish soap?
- **02. Storage bag**
The perfect container for all kinds of clutter.
- **03. Drawer organizer**
Some order in the closet is always good.
- **04. Clothes folding board**
Master the ancient art of folding clothes, also known as chorigami.
- **05. Play mat bag**
If we all pull together, we can make the mess disappear.
- **06. Litter picker tool**
Bending over backwards to clean is a thing of the past.
- **07. Duster**
You could store it on your cavalry helmet.
- **08. Mop slippers**
Admit it: you invented them in your head long ago.
- **09. Desk organizer**
True tidiness starts at your desk.
- **10. White labeling tape**
So you know what's inside all those boxes.
- **11. Smiley stickers**
Use them to show the kids whether they did a good job of cleaning up.
- **12. Portable vacuum cleaner**
When you see a vacuum cleaner, you know things are getting serious.
- **13. Trophy**
An award for the best cleaning performance.
- **14. Tokens**
Give to children for completing tasks, and then exchange them for awards and prizes.
- **15. Lottery machine**
Let chance decide who's doing what.
- **16. Cape**
Not all superheroes wear capes, but supercleaners definitely do.
- **17. Label maker**
This is ninja-level organization.
- **18. Magnifying glass with LED light**
Inspect surfaces for any signs of dust or dirt!

Notes and ideas

Under 3 years

Children help you with cleaning as much as they can, but don't have high hopes.

3+ years

You do most of the cleaning and the children help; you control appliances like the vacuum cleaner.

4+ years

Putting away toys, putting a plate in the sink, dusting the bottom shelf — the child can easily cope with these tasks. The main thing is to lead by example: show them how to do it right.

5+ years

The range of tasks can be expanded. Putting clothes in the closet, returning a book to the shelf — these shouldn't be a problem. You can also add things like feeding the pets, putting groceries away, dusting the room, washing the spoons after lunch — a five-year-old child has what it takes to complete these tasks.

6+ years

Children can do almost everything by themselves, while you just stop by from time to time to encourage them and check on their progress.

7+ years

This is the age when heavier cleaning tasks can begin. Vacuum cleaning, wiping the floor, watering plants — kids are great at helping, especially if they consider it a game.

Small children can do quite a lot, whereas toddlers are not very useful in terms of cleaning a home. Check the table I've prepared for you to make sure your demands match the abilities of your cleaning team.



Let's set some rules first

1. If you don't feel good about the upcoming cleaning task, the kids will feel it and become unhappy too. And they're very good at that.


In a couple of weeks, you'll notice that you keep postponing certain things. This is your chance to fix that and make better progress.
2. Children need some independence. Give them the chance to clean their own space — at their own pace and at the time that suits them, not you.
3. Cleaning can be a lonely thing to do. Don't leave the kids without support — help them when you can.
4. Learn to love lists. Make lists of things to do today, this week, and this month.
5. Use baskets. Each room needs a basket where you put toys and other stuff that's been left on the floor.
6. To make cleaning more organized and reduce the stress that it brings, divide it into smaller cleaning tasks.
7. Don't make the mistake of giving children a choice between cleaning and not

cleaning. Make it a choice between washing the dishes and dusting.

- Before you rush into a teenager's room, vacuum cleaner **locked and loaded**, make sure you understand that kids might have secrets they are not willing to share.
- Don't demand that children's rooms are **perfectly clean**. This is the quickest way to make them hate cleaning. Let them make their own **decisions** and deal with the consequences.
- Don't comment on mistakes immediately. It's better to wait a while before making any **suggestions for improvement**. And don't forget to praise the children for jobs done well!

Time frame

Try setting a time limit of, say, **10 minutes**. During this period, each family member cleans a **specific area**. If someone manages to complete their cleaning faster — they deserve a prize!



Digital timers make time look too formal. Use the supplied hourglass — it's less precise, but great **fun to watch**. But don't forget to **keep cleaning!**

Announcements

Make announcements to tell the kids where they're needed. "Attention! It's **Lego tidying time**," or "Cleaning team to the kitchen. I repeat, cleaning team to the kitchen."

Invent a system

To make tidying easier and more fun, it's a good idea to come up with a system. For example, sorting things by color, size, texture, or purpose. This will not only help you tidy faster, but will also help the kids to learn about the world.

Guessing game

While the adults are minding their own business, the children go to their room and put some toys away. Then they come back and tell the adults how many toys they put away. The adults have to come into the room and guess which ones. If they fail, the kids receive tokens that can later be exchanged for candy or other prizes!

Put on some energizing music! There's nothing better than cleaning and dancing at the same time ... You might have heard of the movie *Clean Dancing*, about a professional dancer who teaches an aspiring cleaning lady how to dance. I don't remember the exact plot, but you can always google it.



Missions and rewards

Write several cards with missions on them. Missions can be written like this: “Wash 20 dishes, make your bed 5 times, clean the sink 3 times,” or “Clean your room twice a week.” On the back of the card, write the reward — the number of tokens. Ask the children to select their missions for the month ahead. And at the end of the month, let the kids exchange their tokens for something fun.

Inventing is fun

There's more than one way of cleaning up a mess. Mops and cloths are ready-made weapons, but maybe you can create your own tools? How about creating a sticky glove that will help you pick up trash from the floor? Or your own litter picking device that stops you needing to bend down for every single toy.

Play out a script

OK, now imagine that you're bank robbers and you need to clean up the crime scene before the police arrive. Everything that might give away your presence has to be hidden, removed, or thrown away!

Here's another one: you're on a desert island where some treasure is hidden. But because of all the mess, it's really hard to find it. Just don't forget to hide some actual treasure (a new toy or a treat) somewhere for the kids to discover.

Oh, oh, I know another one! The Vacuum Cleaner Monster is on the loose! Hurry, help all the toys get back to their homes, or the monster will suck them into Vacuum World!

Fancy some superheroes? No problem! Let the kids

take turns wearing the cape from the kit, to become vigilantes who fight against dirt and trash in the home!

And finally, you can even make this a noir story about a cop who's looking for lost children (toys) in this town (your home) full of dangers (vacuum cleaner) and helping them get back home (the correct shelf or closet).

Trophy

The trophy should be awarded to whoever has collected the most tokens at the end of the month. Keep track of how many tokens each family member has. The trophy allows its owner to skip several tasks during the next month. But each month the trophy changes hands, based on the number of tokens collected.

Lottery

The simplest way to designate tasks is to use the lottery machine. Assign numbers to tasks, and run the machine. Let the numbers on the balls decide who's doing what in the upcoming week.

Mystery item

While cleaning up, you might find some long-forgotten things that you thought had been lost forever. Just try to make sure that the same thing doesn't happen to this mysterious item in the kit.

Here are some tips

- **Avoid routine** — don't allow cleaning to turn into a dull and repetitive chore.
- **Motivate** the kids.
- Encourage their desire to become **more independent** and grown-up.
- Show **respect**.
- **Be an example**.

If the children are reluctant to join in the cleaning, talk to them about why it's important to keep your home clean.

- Health and hygiene — dirt and dust are bad for our health.
- Saves time spent looking for things — when things are **in their places**, it's easy to find them.
- More opportunities for visitors — you're always ready to welcome unexpected guests.
- An organized home leads to an **organized mind**.

Search terms

 **The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up** 


how a vacuum cleaner works 


what dust is made of 


why we need to sort plastic 

junk architecture 

Question time

 What rules about keeping things clean and tidy would you introduce at home if you could?

 What's the hardest part of cleaning?

 Do you think our house is clean enough now?

 Which part of cleaning is the most fun?

Creativity time

Brooms were originally invented to help us keep our apartments and houses clean. But they've since been adopted by some talented individuals who use them for flying. But what if they chose a different household appliance? Can you draw a flying vacuum cleaner?



There's more
out back —
follow the
arrow!



If you lose this playbook while cleaning, or it goes missing under a pile of toys — don't worry. You can always find the digital version online if you follow the QR code. And while you're on the website, check out our other kits. They're awesome!

Visit us:

playoddity Chicago
Hawthorn Mall
122 Hawthorn Center
Vernon Hills
IL 60061

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We're always happy to chat!
Email us: hello@playoddity.com

IMAGINARIUM GLOBAL LLC
122 HAWTHORN CENTER
VERNON HILLS
IL 60061-1502

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