

3S TOUR GUIDE- KID'S ROOM EDITION

Simplifying, Sorting and Sustaining an Organized Life



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Hey There Hopeful! I'm Your Organizing Guide, Melissa



I'm passionate about Small Space Successes. Over the years, I've worked with clients, helping them to achieve a more organized and less stressed life.

Through my experiences, I've learned that living an organized life can bring immense benefits to our spatial and general well-being. I'm excited to share my knowledge and expertise with others seeking a simpler, more Hopeful lifestyle.

A big part of living organized is embracing the "Home Team" concept—everyone in the household pitching in at their own level. For me, that's my son and me (teen years and all!). Even on tough days, teamwork helps us reset when life gets messy.



I believe organizing can spark real, positive change—it's not just about tidy spaces, but about creating a lighter, more Hopeful way of living. I'm excited to help others discover how empowering an organized life can be.

Remember, organizing is a journey, and you don't have to walk it alone. Stay Hopeful, my friend!

 *Melissa Stecher*

The Process of Simplifying

What is Simplifying and How Do We Do It?

What is simplifying?

At Hopeful Simplicity, we define simplifying as decluttering anything that no longer serves our kids—or us—in this season of life. That means letting go of toys, clothes, and supplies that belong to their “used to” days or the “maybe someday” future.

We do this by rehomeing, trashing, or donating items that are **Expired, Outgrown, or Unused**. Rehomeing might look like moving art supplies to a shared family craft shelf instead of keeping them scattered across a nightstand. Trashing is simple—broken toys, dried-out markers, and puzzle pieces with no match can be tossed for good. Donating means passing on clothes that no longer fit, books they've outgrown, or toys they no longer play with—whether to a local donation center or to another child who will enjoy them.

If you prefer donating over tossing, here's a tip: schedule a regular weekly or bi-weekly drop-off and place the donation box straight in your car. That way, items leave your house right away and don't sneak back into the room.

How/What exactly do we Simplify?

In a kid's room, **expired** items aren't always about dates—they're about what no longer works the way it should. A dried-out marker or paint set is “expired” because it can't be used anymore. A stuffed animal with stuffing falling out, or a puzzle missing too many pieces, has reached its “expired” stage too. Even clothes with holes or shoes with worn-out soles can be considered expired, since they no longer do their job.

When we spot these expired items, it's time to let them go and make room for things that actually work, fit, and bring joy.

When we think of **outgrown** items, our minds usually jump straight to kids' stuff—and that's a big part of it. Clothes that no longer fit, shoes that pinch, or toys that no longer match their age and interests all fall into this category. For example, once your child is in school, the plastic dishes, sippy cups, and baby gear can be simplified right out of the space.

Outgrown isn't just about size—it's also about seasons of life. A child may outgrow chunky building blocks and move on to puzzles or books. They might trade dolls for sports gear or Legos for video games. Each stage comes with its own shifts, and letting go of the items from past stages makes room for what fits their life right now.

Unused items in a kid's room are often things that were once favorites but now just sit untouched, taking up valuable space. Maybe your child begged for a toy, played with it for a week, and hasn't touched it since. Or perhaps the craft kit they were so excited about is still sitting unopened months later. Even the shelf of books they've already read (and don't plan to revisit) can become unused clutter.

When items stop being used, they stop serving your family. Passing them along—whether donating, gifting, or rehomeing—frees up space for the things your kids do enjoy right now.

Whether you're **simplifying** expired markers, outgrown clothes, or unused toys—set a 15-minute timer and make your child's room a little lighter by decluttering.

The Significance of Sorting

Your Style for Success

Knowing your child's (and your family's) organizing style is key to creating a kids' room that stays organized. It's about choosing the right containers—whether that's bins for blocks, baskets for books, or drawers for clothes—and setting up simple systems that can grow and adjust as your child moves through different ages and stages.

How to get started.

1. If you're still figuring out your organizing style for the kids' room, I've got a [free resource video](#) to help! It will walk you through discovering your approach, understanding the type of space you're working with, and applying the 3S Method step by step.
2. Start by picturing how you want the room to feel—bright and playful, calm and restful, or a mix of both. Think about how the space should support your child (and you) through daily routines like play, homework, and bedtime.
3. If it's a shared space, remember that organizing becomes a team effort. Talk with your kids about what changes could make the room work better for everyone, and let them have a say in the process—it builds ownership and keeps systems sustainable.
4. And most of all—Stay Hopeful! That mindset is what helps transform a cluttered kids' room into a more organized, peaceful, and supportive space.



Your Style, Your Spaces, Your Success



Macro

One-step put-away is one of the easiest systems for a kid's room. Use open bins or baskets without lids so toys, books, and blocks can be dropped in quickly. Open shelving works the same way—stuffed animals, puzzles, or board games can be put away in one motion without opening doors. The simpler the system, the more likely kids are to actually use it.



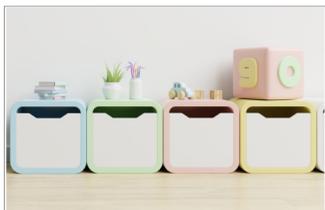
Micro

One-step retrieval is perfect for kids (and parents) who like more detailed systems. Think of containers inside containers—like giving each type of Lego its own bin instead of one big tub. Drawer dividers can separate socks by size or create clear homes for pencils, crayons, and markers. Sorting “like with like” in smaller categories makes it easy for kids to grab exactly what they want in just one step.



Visual

For visual organizers, the motto is “if I can't see it, I don't have it.” Open shelves and clear bins work best in a kid's room because everything is visible at a glance. Picture a bookshelf with favorite stories lined up, a cubby with see-through bins for Legos or dolls, or wall hooks for backpacks and dress-up clothes. Even swapping opaque toy boxes for clear containers helps kids instantly know what they have—and makes it easier to put things back where they belong.



Non-Visual

When seeing everything at once feels overwhelming, solid bins, baskets, and drawers are perfect for non-visual organizers. Using non-see-through containers on open shelves helps hide the clutter while still keeping things sorted. Grouping items by color—like all blue bins for blocks or all white baskets for clothes—can also create a calmer look. For kids who get overstimulated by too much “stuff,” these simple choices keep the room feeling peaceful and manageable.

Sustaining an Organized Life

How to Stay Organized.

One of the biggest misconceptions about organizing a kid's room (or any space) is thinking that once you've decluttered, you're done. The truth? Life keeps moving, and with it come new toys, clothes, school projects, and "stuff." Staying organized isn't a one-time event—it's an ongoing lifestyle. That's what Staying Hopeful is all about: creating less stress by building routines that keep the space working for your family.

Decluttering is tough, and even sorting takes effort. But once those steps are in place, the focus shifts to building habits and routines. These are the small, everyday things—like kids putting toys back before bed, doing a quick clothing check each season, or setting aside a weekly "reset" time to tidy shelves and bins.

Sustaining systems means checking in regularly. We like to follow the "rule of use": the more often you're in a space, the more often you check in with it. For example, kids' rooms might need weekly resets, while less-used storage spaces may only need a seasonal check. These quick refreshes keep clutter from sneaking back and help your organizing systems last.

Do the toys get picked up and put away before bedtime? Is the weekend a good time to sort through artwork or school papers that came home during the week? Do you check at the start of each month for clothes that no longer fit? Do you do a seasonal swap—like trading out summer toys for winter ones, or rotating books to keep things fresh? Do you schedule a quick yearly reset to look at furniture, shelves, and storage to be sure they're still working for your child's age and needs?

Kids' rooms usually need a good reset at least twice a year. So, if you start in January, mark your calendar for a mid-year check-in around June.

Ask yourself: Are there expired, outgrown, or unused toys, clothes, or school supplies that can leave the room now? Are the organizing systems working for your child (and the rest of the home team), or does a small space need adjusting to match their style? Does the room feel messy more often than calm—meaning it might be time to tweak the regular reset routine? Sustaining an organized kid's room is the final step after all the decluttering and sorting—it's what keeps your hard work lasting.



Staying Hopeful

Living in an organized kids' room is no different than other choices we make—it takes consistency and effort. And yes, I “ugh” at that thought, too. We all fall off track sometimes, but the reset is easier once you know the steps. As kids grow and seasons change, new things always come in, which means the process begins again. Simplifying and decluttering is always the first step. Then comes sorting in a way that fits your child and your family's style. Finally, setting up small routines to sustain those systems is what keeps the room organized long-term.

Staying Hopeful means stepping into your organizing power—even if toys pile up or laundry gets behind. It's knowing that one stumble doesn't erase your progress, and getting back on track is part of the process. And you're not alone. There's a whole community of Hopefuls walking this same journey with you—whether it's swapping ideas in our [Facebook group](#) or saving inspiration from [Pinterest](#). Hopeful Simplicity is here to share solutions, encouragement, and real-life wins to help you keep moving forward.

If you're ready to tackle your kids' spaces at your own pace, the [Hopeful Simplicity Library](#) is your next step. Inside you'll find every stage of the 3S Method—Simplify, Sort, Sustain—tailored for small spaces, all for just \$9 a month.

And remember: you've got this, friend. Whenever you need a sprinkle of Hope, reach out—and always, Stay Hopeful!

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