

Weekly Plan for October 12-18, 2006

As always, if you are a new member, please visit our Tutorials page first before starting.

There you will get enlightened about all of the terminology and the basic approaches.

Get your questions answered and find an Accountability Partner on our Message Boards.



If you are able to put your cellular phone chargers in this area, you can plug them in to charge right when you walk in the door. We have even drilled small holes in the backs of drawers or furniture to place these chargers inside and hide them away.

Here's a photo of a clever Destination Station that someone has built in to their entry area:



Your Destination Station

Spend at least 1 hour

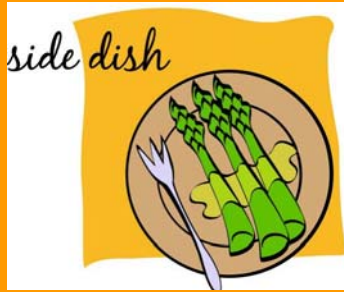
Your Main Dish assignment for this week is working on your Destination Station—the place where you and your family come in and out of your house and put things down. This area is usually a constant maintenance issue for most families' homes (a TNT area). It's time to take everything off the shelves or out of the cubbies, sort it out, and put it back together.

If you've not yet established a Destination Station in your home, now is the time. You can use a shelf for each family member, a cubby system, hooks, a special piece of furniture such as a sideboard or armoire, or any other clever method that will work for your home's configuration. You want to create this area in a place closest to where you enter and exit.

Here are some things that need to be considered in this area:

- Errand shelf:** A place to put things to be returned to other places or people. Videos, library books, store return items, and borrowed things can go here and wait to be collected when you leave. Also good is keeping these kinds of items in your car, if you cannot find a place for an errand shelf.
- Key hooks:** Hang up hooks for your keys so you will have a home for them right when you walk in. Decorative accessory stores now sell these kinds of hooks that look really nice in your home and will match your personality. You can also use a beautiful pottery bowl or dish to hold your keys if that works better.
- Family baggage:** Purses, backpacks, and briefcases all need a home here. Since you are doing this work, give yourself first pick at the best shelf. ☺
- Cellular phones & pagers:** Leave these here when you come in so they don't get lost in the house.
- Incoming & outgoing mail:** It doesn't have to be here, but it is a consideration. A wastebasket is helpful here for this purpose.
- Equipment for regular lessons or practices:** musical instruments, sports gear, or other items needed regularly.
- Small "purse refill items:"** Gum, mints, tissues, lotions
- Sunglasses:** Now they have a home!
- Shoes and socks for kids:** It is efficient to have these ready by the door to go out, as otherwise they get sent to their rooms to put on shoes and that can take much longer, especially for young children.
- Coats and scarves, if necessary and possible in your space**
- Bench for taking off/putting on shoes or boots**

If you want to read more about Destination Stations or other Home Stations, see our multimedia tutorials or search in our Knowledge Base for full guidelines on placement and maintenance.



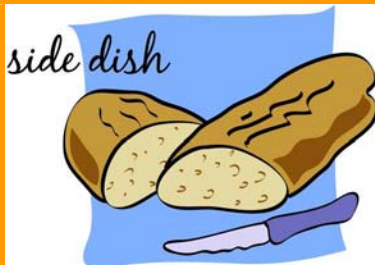
Things like batteries and anything else with a significant quantity in its category should probably find another home of its own. The junk drawer is for the lonely parts and pieces for which you have no other home.

Junk Drawer Time!

Spend at least 10-15 minutes

This week's first Side Dish assignment... Take a few minutes, even while you are talking on the phone with a friend, and clean out that junk drawer. Everybody has one, and we believe you should. There are always "doo-dads" in every home that nobody knows what to do with. In my junk drawer, we have those little packets of floral food, the small pieces to our holiday light timers, a pair of scissors, some glue sticks, and some little round black magnets (among other things). The good part is that the things in the drawer are limited, and they are very visible and easy to find due to the use of drawer dividers. Most discount stores now sell very good "junk drawer dividers" that are specifically made for this purpose, with lots of little compartments and a top sliding tray. Dividers are the key to making this work.

Remember, when you use drawer dividers, our Museum Putty trick makes them stay in place. Put a small dab of the putty underneath the divider to keep it from sliding around when you open and close the drawers. Pick up some Museum Putty in our online store today—you'll find a lot of uses for it! Search our Knowledge Base for more about junk drawers and drawer dividers if you need help.



Holiday Planning

Spend at least 10-15 minutes

If you don't know yet where you are having Thanksgiving and December holiday celebrations, please take a moment for this Side Dish assignment to confer with the relatives and figure that out this week. You may need to make travel and lodging arrangements. If you already have done that, you can start thinking about the menu, if you are in charge. We will be covering this more in detail as we get closer.

A few weeks ago we started on our holiday gift list. We divided our number of gifts required by the number of weeks remaining until your celebration of choice. Mine was 1.5 gifts per week... have you started buying any gifts yet? Because that number will go up every week if you haven't started your shopping. You certainly don't have to, but just be aware of it and do the right thing. ☺



Home Safety Checkup

When the clocks change soon for Daylight Savings Time, you are advised by experts to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and check your fire extinguishers. **Count how many smoke detectors you have, and then buy your batteries at the store** (usually 9V size). [Click here for an article on fire extinguishers](#) and [here for one on carbon monoxide detectors](#).



Get Some Time Alone!

Your Dessert this week, after you've done your assignments, is to get yourself some alone time. Go to a place you love, a beautiful place, if you can. Maybe it's just getting up a little earlier to read the newspaper before the rest of the family wakes up. Whatever this means to you, do make it happen. Everyone needs this time to step back and reflect and be silent.

We'll see you again when you "Weigh In" for next week!