



**confident parents**  
**confident kids**

## **Household Responsibilities** **By Age and Stage**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Developmental Considerations</b>	<b>Ideas for Household Jobs</b>
4	Love jobs to do but often clumsy and have short attention spans.	Count out snack into bowl. Help set out napkins. Put away toys into large bins.
5	Like to help. Eager to follow and learn about rules. Need consistent routines.	Sweep the floor with broom. Adult needs to help with dustpan. Take dirty dishes in to sink.
6	Thrive on encouragement. Eager to try new games, dramatic play.	Set the table with the waiter game. Get out and put away holiday decorations. Rinse dishes.
7	Wants to keep toys neater, more organized.	Work together to create new organization systems for toys for child to maintain. Make sure bins or storage are labeled and large enough for contents. Rake leaves.
8	Love cooperative work with peers.	Dusting, vacuuming, cleaning as a team together. Washing the car with friends is a fun warm weather activity.
9	Greater social awareness, awakening to issues of social justice. May better understand all members pitching in to care for house. Take pride in their work.	Make bed in the morning. Organize, clean up common household spaces. Take out trash. Move cans to the curb by self or with support. Learn to care for pets.
10	Work well on cooperative teams. Have high sensitivity to fairness.	Bring laundry to washer. Move clothing from washer to dryer and begin learning about how to do laundry. Make breakfast, snack or lunch with support and choices.

**Continued on following page.**

## Household Responsibilities by Ages and Stages Continued...

Age	Developmental Considerations	Ideas for Household Jobs
11	Like to challenge rules. Need more adult empathy. Sensitive to justice issues.	Do yard work together as a family. Care for sick family members or neighbors together.
12	More self-aware. Will initiate activities. Better organizational skills.	Ask for opinions about how to organize areas of the house that need attention. Give projects of interest with support if needed.
13	High sensitivity. Like to challenge authority. Looking for independence. Want to engage in service, social justice.	Make large meals together for your family and to contribute to other families as a service. Care for pets.
14	Need physical release, active opportunities. Interested in service as it relates to social/world issues.	Mow lawn or care for yard. Vacuum or help with moving boxes or bins. Engage in home improvement projects like painting. Care for bikes.
15	Often conflicted emotions swaying with needs related to dependence and independence. Still very much need love and support but often on their timeline.	Involve in car care - washing, taking for oil change. Making own food desires lists, shopping, organizing own snacks. Washing own clothing.

### References:

American Academy of Pediatrics, Ages and Stages: <https://www.healthychildren.org/english/ages-stages/pages/default.aspx>

Wood, C. (2007). *Yardsticks (3rd. Edition): Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14*. Turners Falls, MA: Northeast Foundation for Children.