



Bible App for Kids Curriculum: Clean Up

20 minutes into the hour, it's time to Clean Up! You get to help your kids transition from Play Time, which is mostly self-directed, to Prop Talk, which is much more structured.

Try these tips and tricks in your room every week to help the transition go well. Consistency over time will leave your room clean as a whistle before you know it!

- 1. Grab attention.** Before you get kids to clean up, you've got to get their attention. Try one of these methods to get the attention of every kid in the room.
 - **Clap.** Clap three times, and ask kids to copy you. If the whole group isn't with you yet, say, "Good job!" for those who listened, and do it again. Keep it up until the whole room is copying.
 - **Freeze.** Ask everyone in the room to freeze and put their hands in the air like a tree (or stand like a letter X, or put their hands by their ears so they can hear you, etc.)
 - **Point.** Say, "Point to me if you can hear my voice." If not everyone is with you yet, calmly go through a list of pointing directions like, "Point to the door if you can hear my voice," or "Point to the TV if you can hear my voice." Once you notice most kids are pointing, finish by saying "Point to me if you can hear my voice," again.
- 2. Give direction immediately.** The attention of your room is a precious gift that won't last long if you don't use it!
 - **Know what to say.** Be prepared with a brief set of instructions you want to share *before* you grab your room's attention. Here are a few options you can try:
 - "It's Clean Up Time! Put away your toys and come sit at the TV with a leader!"
 - "Play time is all finished! Let's see how fast we can put our toys away and find a leader to sit with!"
 - "Let's start the Clean Up Song! Clean the room and find a leader to sit with before it's over!"
 - **Say it quickly.** Reward kids for their attention by giving them something to follow through with immediately. Pausing to reprimand a couple of kids who aren't getting it *before* you share instruction might lose the whole group's hard-earned attention.
 - **Use visual cues.** Train kids to respond not just to what you say, but to what you show them. Great procedures that will keep your room moving along are flipping over the Play Time Picture Schedule Card and moving the star clip to the Clean Up one, using baby sign language for "all done," or even pointing to your own ears as a cue to get kids to listen.
- 3. Make it fun:** Use strategies like these to make the Clean Up experience a fun challenge instead of just instructions to follow.

- **Play a game.** Try funny games like everyone has to freeze until you start the Clean Up song, or everyone spins around three times before they can get started.
 - **Be silly.** When you move the star, fly it around in the air or pretend like you're going to clip it into place but pull it away to trick the kids, or even clip it onto your shirt or ear as a joke. Encourage giggles, and don't let anyone start cleaning until it's clipped onto the Clean Up Picture Schedule Card for real!
 - **Sing as you clean.** Don't worry. You don't have to sing alone—Mr. Music will lead the way! Encourage the kids to sing along, too!
4. **Finish strong.** Empower kids to work through the transition themselves instead of relying on you!
- **Stand back.** Don't help too much. Ask your kids to show you where the toys go, and let them feel pride in how much they can do on their own as they tidy the room!
 - **Help as needed.** When kids struggle with putting on a lid, putting a shoe back on their foot, or trying to find a group to sit with, give them some gentle help and direction.
 - **Give kids the time they need.** If the room and the kids aren't ready when the Clean Up song is over, continue cleaning and forming small groups before moving on. Kids will speed up over time and will be better focused for Prop Talk when you finish completely and consistently.
5. **Learn more.** Check out the *Transition from Play Time to Small Groups* video and discussion guide.

A final note: Be consistent! It will take several weeks (at least) for your kids to learn the Clean Up procedure well. But when they do, Clean Up will be quick and easy almost every time!

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think is the main goal of Clean Up time?
2. What strategy for gaining the whole room's attention do you think fits you best?
3. What's the number one challenge you have, or you think you might have, when leading Clean Up?
4. Which of the strategies above may help you to work through the challenges?

Prayer

God, thank You for the opportunity to help kids transition well from free play to organized learning. Please help us be consistent in leadership, and show us ways to handle challenges gracefully and lovingly. In Jesus' name, amen.