

# **Stuff That Works Building Families**

## **Chapter 7** **“Family Tasks”**

Take Action

# **Stuff That Works Building Families**

## Chapter 7 Take Action: Content

- Pick a task that has to be done and do it together. Make it simple and do not have it last more than 60 Minutes. For example clean the kitchen. Everyone must help.
- Pick a task each week and do them together
- Pick a major task (Raking leaves) and make it a contest. When we finish we go for ice cream. Invite friends to join in.
- Invest time on [Stuffthatworksbooks.com](http://Stuffthatworksbooks.com)

## Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 7 Take Action: Action 1

Pick a task that has to be done and do it together. Make it simple and do not have it last more than 60 Minutes. For example clean the kitchen. Everyone must help.

### **ACTION**

Early on with young children this was a planned activity. Every night after dinner we would all clean the table and help in the kitchen until we were done. AS children entered later grades this stopped working simply because schedules seldom had us eating at the same time.

You must adapt and find a way to make it work. It has to change as your family matures. The idea is to find work for all of you to do together.

I find it is important to have work you do together. Avoid dividing and conquering on everything. For example do not have one person clear and one person only wash. The idea here is to work together.

### **EXAMPLES**

Some ideas that have worked for my family:

1. Cleaning the family room
2. Cleaning Bathrooms every Friday before movie night
3. Weeding the flower beds
4. Hauling mulch
5. Shoveling Snow
6. Painting and Painting prep
7. Baking cookies
8. Birthday shopping and decorating
9. Mothers day decorations and breakfast in bed
10. Planning a vacation
11. Packing for a vacation
12. Grocery shopping
13. Clean garage
14. Pack for a move
15. Clean the church
16. Serve in a soup kitchen
17. Making Dinner
18. Making lunch
19. Planning and preparing for a party

# Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 7 Take Action: Action 2

Pick a task each week and do them together

## **ACTION.**

Each family is different and each stage of the family is different. The idea is to ensure that you are doing something work related every week together.

When the kids were young this was driven by routine. We cleaned house every Sunday from 5pm-6pm.

As they grew older it was we cleaned family room before movie night every Friday.

When I had children in High school, Middle school and grade school it was driven by planning and variety. This Saturday we will all rake leaves at 11am and eat lunch at the sandwich shop at noon. We will be done by 12:30. The following week it was we will have family dinner Wednesday at 6pm and will clean up together done by 7:30.

Adjust but make it work!

## **EXAMPLES**



## Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 7 Take Action: Action 3

Pick a major task (Raking leaves) and make it a contest. When we finish we go for ice cream. Invite friends to join in.

### **ACTION.**

The goal here is to make work fun.

Creating rewards also helps engage the older children and can help engage kids across a very broad spectrum of ages.

Including friends of the children also helps with older children especially teenagers.

Creating work events can be a blast for all

### **EXAMPLES**

#### Sleep Over's

With teenagers sleep over's are very effective.

We have had groups of 4 to 5 sleep over. Watch movies on a Friday night. Get up on Saturday and spend the day working in the yard or painting rooms. We have even spent a weekend building catapults for a school project.

#### Yard Clean Up

It is not unusual to get invited to the Sherwin Household for yard clean up day or deck building day or Kitchen painting events.

It was my knock off of the old Barn Raising events of the past when entire communities would gather to build a barn for a neighbor.

Having friends bring a pot luck over and paint your house can be a great party for all.

# **Stuff That Works Building Families**

Chapter 7 Take Action: Action 4

Invest time on [Stuffthatworksbooks.com](http://Stuffthatworksbooks.com) to discover more ways to add fun to daily office life.

## **ACTION.**

This is an easy one.

I believe that each of us can help someone else.

There is so much to know and to experience. You just can not do it on your own. So the best way forward is to share and learn from each other.

Technology makes this so easy today. That is why I built the web site [Stuffthatworksbooks.com](http://Stuffthatworksbooks.com) .

It only reaches its potential if you join in and add the stuff that works that you have found. Please make a contribution today. Help others find the Stuff That Works.

Others have already shared their stuff that works so be sure to check the site often as there is probably something to improve every area of your life.

The community is waiting and growing. I hope you will join in and make a positive difference.

Thank you!

## **EXAMPLES**

### **CONTRIBUTE**

It is easy to share your Stuff That Works.

Simply click on “Contribute” from the main menu.

Then select “Submit an Idea”.

Easy!

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It is easy to Learn Stuff That Works from others.

Simply click on “Contribute” from the main menu.

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