Organizing Toys

(so kids stay interested)

As a mother of 2 school aged children, this new eLearning has put a whole new spin on parenting.  After spending my whole morning assisting, answering questions, and reviewing assignments,  I need to get things done for myself (whether that’s answering some work emails, folding a load of laundry, or prepping dinner).

How many of you have said in the last week “how can you be bored?!?!  There is a whole basement/toy room/bed room full of toys you haven’t played with!!!”   The thing is, kids can feel overstimulated with a room full with toys and often have difficulty organizing their play themselves.

The teachers at CLEWS use this method regularly during the class.  They use “stations” to keep the kids engaged making sure each week has new toys to play with.

This is a strategy that you can try with your family to help keep the kids entertained with the stuff you already have.

Step 1— Parents—organize your toys (this is a great weekend project).  Find several bins/boxes/plastic bags.  Put all the lego in one box, cars and car tracks in another box, puzzles in another box, doll in another box, etc.

Step 2- Pick one toy and place it in a room that doesn’t have any other toys.  You can do this in the evening after the kids go to bed, or while the kids are doing their eLearning.

Step 3-  Set up a part of the toy like you would see it in the store.  Can you make a small track for the cars; can the cars be lined up like they are about to race?  Can the dolls outfit and bottles be laid out and ready?  can the legos be organized around the room ready to be built?

Here, you are basically jump starting the imagination.

Step 4- after eLearning, guide the children to the room where the toy is and it will be like Christmas morning!  Depending on the toy, the child, and their mood, you might get a few hours of independent play… or maybe even a few days.

Step 5- Once you notice the child becoming bored of the toy, switch it out for a new toy and put the old one back in the box.

This can also be done with a craft area in your home.  Pull out some coloring books one day and replace with some play dough the next.

We are in this TOGETHER, and TOGETHER we are stronger!

Stay safe!