

## FRUGAL DUCHESS

# Making room for homework



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During the school year, students often have special assignments that demand time, energy and money. Fortunately, with a few

time-saving steps, homework duties can be less stressful and time-consuming.

**Sort home supplies.** Take the divide-and-conquer approach when stashing home supplies, said Suzy Wilkoff, owner of Tasks Unlimited ([www.tasksunlimited.com](http://www.tasksunlimited.com)), which is based in South Florida. She recom-

mends separating pens, pencils, erasers, tape and staples into plastic containers or storage boxes of different colors.

**Use labels.** In my house, school supplies are sorted into clear, vertical drawers. Having supplies on hand reduces the need for late-hour shopping trips on deadline.

**Use a bookshelf.** These

are ideal for storing supplies, paper, notebooks and tablets.

**Create a homework center.** Whether it's the dining room table or a formal desk, homework needs a designated site.

**Make a file box for each child.** Wilkoff recommends establishing a file box for each child with color-coded

or labeled files for each subject and after-school activity. "It is very important to continually go through papers and discard what is nonessential," Wilkoff says, suggesting a monthly review.

**Use a bulletin board.** School notices, invitations and other announcements can be posted in chronological order and removed after the event is over. A wall calendar and a dry erase board are also helpful.

Color code events — games, tests, tutoring sessions — with a different marker for

each child. While computer calendars and electronic reminders are great, a large family calendar or bulletin board keeps everyone up to date.

**Give each child a manila folder.** Too often important notices and letters from school get lost in backpacks. A manila envelope is "a great way to keep the 'pertinent' paper-type items organized inside a book bag that may have a habit of getting messy," Wilkoff says. Just be sure to check the envelope weekly.