

Better Homes and Gardens®

AUGUST 2015
BHG.COM

HOME
REMEDIES
FROM YOUR
KITCHEN p.140

Yummy
FOOD FOR
A BACKYARD
BASH

Smart
TRICKS FOR
SMALL SPACES

Lush
GARDEN ON
A TINY LOT

**Fresh
Fun!**

EASY PARTIES,
RECIPES,
AND DECOR

EASY FREEZY FUN POPS p.136

1 mom, 2 boys, 3 mess zones

Wherever kid stuff tends to pile up, this mom of twins knows what to do. Here are her tricks to show it off or stow it away.

BY BERIT THORKELSON | PHOTOS BRIE WILLIAMS
PRODUCED BY ANDREA CAUGHEY | STYLING MICHAEL WALTERS



To keep washday necessities at hand, Traci corrals items in assorted glass jars on a tray. The boys tuck their hangers into the dryer's drawer each morning, where they're always ready for freshly tumbled clothes.



Traci Zeller

AT HOME WITH Traci Zeller, interior designer in Charlotte.

BIGGEST ORGANIZATION CHALLENGE Henry and Charlie, her twin boys. A household with double the activities, stuff, and mess potential requires rock-solid solutions.

HER PLAN OF ATTACK Traci focuses on three key potential problem areas: the utility room, the playroom, and the kids' closet. Adaptable systems, bright ideas, and hardworking products help keep things accessible and organized, even with Traci's dynamic duo in the house.

utility room

PROBLEM: Home necessities and backup toiletries scattered in junk drawers and cabinets

SOLUTION: A cleaning/utility/supply center for refilling, restocking, and easy general maintenance

PAINT TRICK
Traci decants interior paint used throughout her home into Mason jars for quick touch-ups.



The cabinets, *above and left*, act as Traci's mini supply closet. "I can look in one spot to know if we're running low on anything," she says. Products grouped by use make finding replacements and restocking reserves easy.

Try it at home

1. CHALKBOARD LABELS These allow for simple relabeling. Recollections Chalkboard Labels, \$3.99; michaels.com **2. IRONING PAD** Iron away without losing valuable floor space. Household Essentials Ironing Blanket, \$8.99; wayfair.com **3. HAMPER** A collapsible version tucks away when laundry is done. Badger Basket Folding Hamper, \$21.11; wayfair.com



WORK OF ART

Clipboards create an artist-controlled gallery to swap out masterpieces.

playroom

PROBLEM: A perpetual explosion of toys that little ones rarely manage to put away

SOLUTION: Adaptable, open, and clearly labeled storage within kids' reach

"If I create this amazing system of organization and they can't figure it out, I haven't done any of us any good," Traci says. Instead, she and the twins decide together where things should go. Topping identical cabinets with a cushion transforms an odd slice of room into valuable storage and a cozy reading nook with a built-in look.

Try it at home 1. LIDDED

BOXES Keep tiny toys in totable bins. Bento Box, from \$9.99; rubbermaid.com

2. STORAGE STOOL It stows your goodies and gives you a spot to sit. Otto Storage Stool, \$25; gitadini.com

3. TOY CUBBY These open cubbies are the ultimate for toy organization. Venture Horizon Stackable Cubby, \$50.25; wayfair.com

WIN!

Enter throughout August for a chance to win our favorite storage products and more. Details on page 150. BHG.com/FaveStorage



kids' closet

PROBLEM: Two kids' worth of stuff stuffed in one closet for double the morning madness

SOLUTION: Space divided into adjustable, accessible, kid-size morsels for maximum self-sufficiency



HANGER HELP

A different-color ribbon for each kiddo makes sorting a cinch.

Stashing most-used items low simplifies picking things out and picking them up. A California Closets system with adjustable shelves can grow and change with the kids.

Try it at home 1. STORAGE

BINS Easy-to grab baskets and bins are a closet essential. Citron Stripe Bin, \$40; pehrdesigns.com

2. HANGERS Sort your clothes by color. Whitmor Flocked Hangers, \$13.99 for five; walmart.com

3. SWEATER BINS Label and stack sweaters and Ts in these open bins. Sweater Bin, \$24.99; greatusefulstuff.com ■



CLEVER STORAGE

Drink tubs and XL tote bags serve as a fun storage solution.



FREE LABELS Keep their gear organized with labels. Print our kid-approved designs. BHG.com/KidsLabels