

* professional organiser, Robyn Amott, shares her top tips for organising your child's wardrobe, and reducing those 'what to wear' morning tantrums!

make organising *child & play*

words by Robyn Amott | photography by Lisa Kerr Atkinson

Let me set the scene for you... It's 7am in the morning you just got out of the shower, you're getting ready for work and your children are screaming to be fed and dressed and there is a lot of yelling and tears, and that's just from Mum. The kids are going bananas because they can't find the special t-shirt, sports uniform or fairy skirt they just have to wear today.

Sound like your household in the morning?

I'm Robyn Amott, a WAHM to two young girls and owner of Bless this Mess Professional Organising and De-cluttering services. I'm more than familiar with how chaotic life with kids can

be and know only too well how the regular morning routine can make getting out the door seem impossible. All because of a simple clothing issue.

Organising the contents of your treasures wardrobe is a great place to start! Coming from a fashion based background, wardrobes are one of my great passions. You ideally want to create a wardrobe that fits your child's age, allows for independence and yet is flexible enough to cater to both their current and future needs.

13 tips

for creating an easily maintainable wardrobe for your kids

1 less is best When it comes to kids – less is best. Simplify choices by limiting quantity.

2 hang as much as you can Save the draws for pyjamas, bed linen, singlets and socks.

3 group younger children's clothes into sets It's a great way to teach them how to co-ordinate their outfits, ensures Daddy knows just what goes with what and saves on space.

4 let them explore As they grow allow them the ability to explore their creativity by hanging items individually.

5 increase your hanging space by adding a double hanging rail and hang bottoms and skirts on the lower rail and tops/dresses and jackets on the top. Use the higher rail for special occasion items.

6 provide a non-slip step for younger children so they can reach the higher rail when required.

7 when sharing If you have children sharing a room use the lower rail for the smallest child and the top for the eldest.

8 group clothes in accordance with type/colour. Hang like with like in order of sleeveless, short sleeve, long sleeve, cardigans/jumpers. Additionally shorts, skirts, leggings, pants, jeans.

9 divide and conquer Shoe boxes or draw organisers are great for dividing up draws and keeping their content contained.

10 baskets on shelves can be great for items you prefer to fold or those hard to hang items like shorts or bulky jumpers, as they act like draws.

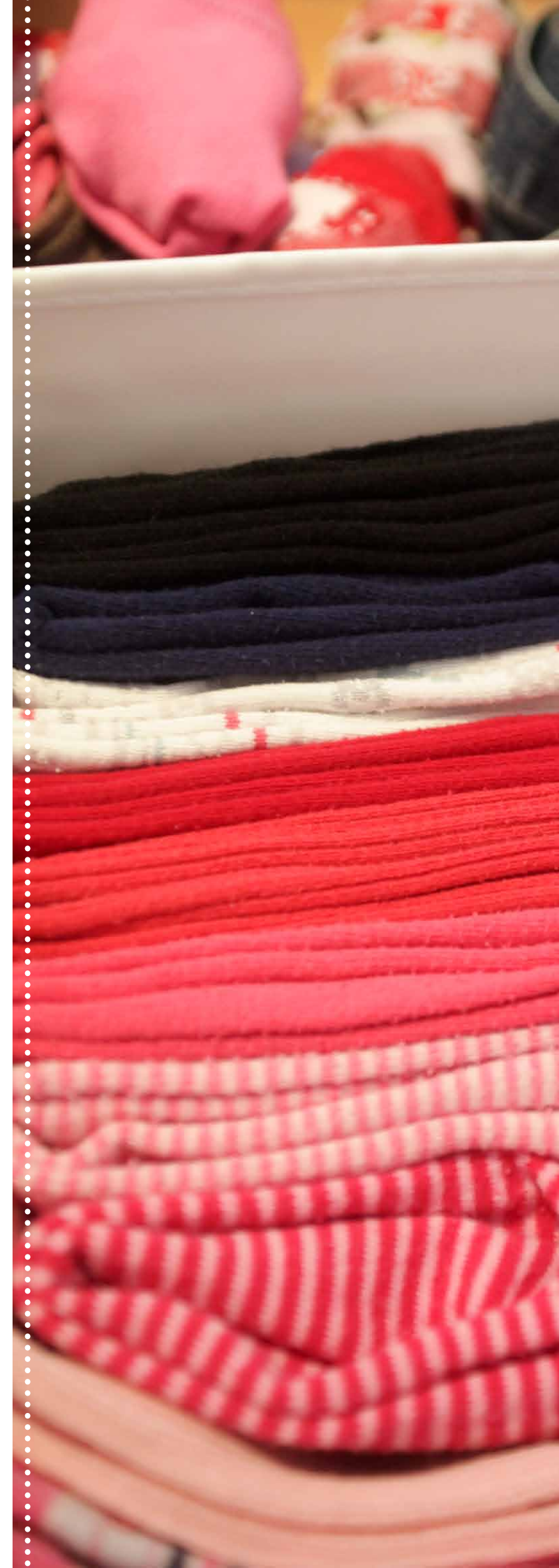
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Attach a strip of felt underneath to prevent them scratching the shelf. Identify one basket for each clothing type and get the kids to help create badges to tie on.

11 be sure to get the kids involved. Their sense of pride in helping to create their space will encourage them to also maintain it, and even get involved in putting away their washing.

12 rotate items based on seasonal needs. Remove or donate items that no longer fit. It's a great way to also know what you need to shop for.

13 utilise the back of wardrobe doors. Great for hanging school bags, jackets or scarves without cluttering up the appearance of the room. 3M offer a fantastic range which can be easily moved to suit changing needs and are great if you're renting.





so now that's sorted how do you stop those morning tantrums over what to wear?

incorporate a new step into your nighttime routine...

Get the kids to choose their clothes for the next day. Let them know what the weather will be and the most appropriate clothing items i.e. skirt, singlet, short sleeve top, cardigan and stockings. With your newly organised wardrobe, the selection process will be much easier. Also gives you the chance to wash any last minute uniform or special items the night before they need them.

let go of your ideals on how you think they should look...

Don't get too hung up on what matches and what doesn't. You'll only end up in another tantrum based situation. Children need to experiment with their choices, its' part of learning and a way for them to express their individuality. So let them! The outfits my children come up with are sometimes hideous and other times they manage to pull off the perfect outfit from items I would never have thought to team together. Be sure to praise their ability! Trust me their sense of pride, the smile on their faces and the 'how do I look Mummy' comments are worth every mismatched outfit. More importantly the kids will be only too happy to get dressed the next morning as they chose their outfit and can't wait to put it on.

a place for everything...

When it comes to organising any space it's not only about 'the stuff.' Giving everything a home creates calmness for both your mind and spaces. Systems and routines are a big part of the process too and ensure you don't end up back at square one in a few weeks.

These systems provide an ease of use for everyone. Additionally they allow for independence, save on space, create a home for everything and in turn make it easier for you/ the kids to find and put clothing away when clean. . Most importantly they will save you time, money and your sanity and make that morning routine run more smoothly and have you out the door on time.

Now that's sure to make the morning routine a little more bearable!

for more great organising/ storage solutions contact Bless This Mess

Robyn Amott on 0407 757 466 or at www.blessthismess.com.au, or follow my daily tips on Facebook www.facebook.com/BlessthisMessOrganising.

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