

“The Plan”

“The Fabulously Brilliant Flexible and Comprehensive Plan for Raising Independent Children Who Will Be Able to Take Care of Themselves as Adults and Be Able to Have a Family of Their Own Plan.”

THREE YEARS OLD

Dress self
Toilet trained
Beginning brush teeth
Pick up toys
Say prayers

FOUR YEARS OLD

Brush teeth
Make bed
Make own breakfast
Make sandwiches
Beginning to clean room
Clean glass tables
Unload dishwasher

FIVE YEARS OLD

Straighten room
Vacuum
Empty garbage cans
Set table
Clear table
Make own lunch
Canned food warm-up
Get allowance

SIX YEARS OLD

Take shower
Dusting
Load dishwasher
Empty dishwasher
Clean sinks
Run microwave
Water plants
Make and answer phone calls

SEVEN YEARS OLD

Wash dishes
Floss teeth
Clean toilets
Pull weeds
Savings account
Read with comprehension
Memorize phone/address

EIGHT YEARS OLD

Grooming nails & hair
Get up by himself
Team sport or club
Personal talent development
Clean mirrors
Read scriptures daily
Care for pet
Do hair
Begin piano lessons

“The Plan”

NINE YEARS OLD

Mop floor
Clean pictures
Bake cakes
Bake cookies
Read scriptures daily
Baptism
Emergency prep
Learn first aid
Fill car with gas
Wash car
Vacuum interior of car
Hammer nails
Saw wood
Cook vegetables
Write letters
Understands puberty & sex
Use e-mail

TEN YEARS OLD

Do own laundry completely
Set personal goals
Musical instrument
Maintain personal journal
Exercise program
Rent video
Clean stove
Clean oven
Make several salads
Basic nutrition
Use blower
Plant plants
Place a collect call
Use a payphone
Place a long distance call
Know articles of faith
Write creative writing
Basic science understanding
Wrap presents
Sew buttons

ELEVEN YEARS OLD

Arrange for own haircuts
Clean refrigerator
Clean cupboards
Straighten drawers
Straighten closets
Sew hems
Bake pies
Bake bread
Make several main dishes
Ironing
Meal planning
Mow lawn
Use weed-wcker
Garden maintenance
Place credit card call
Mission preparation
Good basic math skills
Use a camera
Learn to crochet or knit
First aid training
Babysitting class

TWELVE YEARS OLD

Shop for clothing
Basic fashion awareness
Wardrobe planning
Develop reading program
Read newspaper
Public speaking
Weight control habits
Make/keep dentist appt.
Make/keep doctor appt.
Keep personal calendar
Understand basic filing
Some computer experiences
Order something by phone
Order something by mail
Order something on internet
Read Book of Mormon through
Priesthood or Young Women's
Check fluids in car
Paint interior/exterior house
Babysitting
Mending
Clean windows
Use internet (filtered!)

“The Plan”

THIRTEEN YEARS OLD

- Sew simple items
- Shopping & sales
- Bargain hunting
- Party planning
- Has own recipe files
- Grocery shopping
- Plant care
- Simple budgeting
- Pay household bills
- Use ATM
- Certify for CPR
- Type without looking
- Go to movies w/out parent
- Understand prescriptions
- Learn meat-handling rules
- Learns etiquette rules

FOURTEEN YEARS OLD

- Basic interior decorating
- Food storage basics
- Memorize S.S. number
- Understand debit cards--use
- Learn interest, debt, securities
- Learn about make-up (girls!)
- Identify business skill to get
- Some experience with sales
- Learn basic civics and politics
- Accompany parent to vote
- Thorough car detailing
- Change flat tire
- Basics of car operation
- Structural household repairs
- Put up wallpaper
- Memorize Seminary scriptures
- Clean garage
- Sell items on the internet

SIXTEEN YEARS OLD

- Get driver's license!
- Understands credit cards
- Learn retirement plans
- Resume preparation
- Interviewing
- Understand advertising
- Career planning
- Arrange for car insurance
- Household repairs
- Assist in purchase of car
- Checking account
- File tax return
- Deal the auto mechanic
- Landscape planning
- Use cell phone (they pay for it!)
- GET A JOB!!!

EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD

- Spontaneously quotes scriptures in Sunday School
- Stops by to visit parents and offers to help
- Starts buying parents really expensive gifts
- File insurance claim
- Shall I go on? I love dreaming!

Rather incredible, isn't it? We have to know a LOT before we can be successful adults. Some of you may be reading the list and thinking, "Gee, I still need to learn some of this." It's never too late!

As I said before, feel free to add to this list all you would like. If you would like an electronic copy of this list, feel free to send me an e-mail and I'll send it to you. Spend some time both by yourself and with your spouse and family reviewing the list and seeing if anything particular to your family needs to be added to come up with your own Master List.

You may certainly want to add some items that fit your own family's spiritual values as well and your family's personality. You may be big sports buffs and not care at all about music. You may love to have your daughters do dance or whatever. Make it fit who your family is and who your children are.

Good Luck!

Merrilee