



6 TIPS TO YOUR MOST ORGANIZED SCHOOL YEAR YET!

Every new school year is a chance to start fresh. (This will be the year!) Before you begin gathering calendars, checklists, and folders, check out our organization tips. Get your kids on board by letting them use colored pens and markers to help label and decorate folders and more.



1 HANG A HUMONGO FAMILY CALENDAR. It should have enough space to write in everyone's appointments and activities. Coding family members' events in their favorite color makes it easier to keep track of who needs to be where when.

2 Make a command central to avoid morning scrambles. Every family needs a launch pad where bags land and leave from the same basket, hook, or cubby every day. The same goes for shoes, sunglasses, and your car keys.

3 Give each family member a folder. Papers to sign, forms to keep, etc., go here and stay in a designated spot in command central. Everyone can have their own color-coded folder. Or recycle a set of plain folders and get the kids to colorfully and distinctly decorate one for each member of the family. (Don't forget the pets!)

4 Get the kids—even young ones—their own alarm clock. Making kids responsible for waking up on their own instills good habits early—and beats your having to nag them out of bed!

5 Do as much as possible the night before. You've heard this one already, but it works. Make the lunches, pack school and work bags, sign papers, lay out clothes, and—of course—set up the coffee maker.

6 FINALLY, MAKE IT FUN! Use the [My After-School Checklist](#) to motivate kids to stay organized. **Another approach:** Take photos of little ones completing their daily routines (e.g., eating breakfast, brushing teeth). Laminate the pictures and make a step-by-step photo chart they can check off with a dry erase marker!

