

Take a Spin on the Chore Wheel

'Tis the season to get back into (ahem, or start?) routines. Sleeping schedules, bus times, eating schedules, school paperwork, sports, homework, chores. The list goes on. Here's a strategy to make those necessary chores a little more fun by creating... a Chore Wheel! Inspired by the classic game show, the little one in your life will have a ball taking a spin at the colorful wheel. Everyone's a winner when the chores are shared – and done!

Materials:

Posterboard, cardstock, or white paper

Pencils, markers, ruler

Embellishments: stickers, glitter, Clip art... Be creative!



Directions:

Just like any classroom starts the year by brainstorming and forming class rules, begin with a **conversation**. *What are chores and why do they matter? How can each person help contribute to the whole unit?* Write a **list of must-dos** on one side of the paper or poster board. (Think laundry in the basket, art supplies cleaned and put away, clearing your place after you eat, etc.) These are non-negotiable responsibilities. When these daily tasks are done...then step on up, and take your turn at the chore wheel!

On the second side of the poster, **create a circle** on the center of your posterboard. Trace a circular plate or freestyle it with your pencil to start the wheel. Once the circle is complete, use the ruler to divide the circle into **multiple wedges**. Each wedge will list the written chore (for readers) and/or pictures (for developing readers). Again, brainstorm together so each participant's ideas are posted.

- Keep it **colorful**. Add stickers and pictures over time. Size matters - make **less** wedges for primary grades, **multiple** wedges for upper-graders who love the thrill.
- Keep it **fun!** Play **music** and work together to see how **quickly** the work is completed.

Extension:

- ✓ Invite your students/children to take **before and after photos**. Print and publish the ones showing the finished result. Then add the prints to the poster!
- ✓ Add a special chore that's **slightly above your child's ZPD*** to the wheel. (Perhaps using the vacuum cleaner, pruning the garden, pushing the grocery cart/carrying in grocery bags, or making popcorn in the microwave.) Do this chore together, as adult assistance will be needed, but watch little ones rise to the occasion!
- ✓ Share your ideas on social media **#littlechildrenBIGactivity**.

*ZPD refers to the "Zone of Proximal Development," a psychology and educational term. Check out the "I've been thinking..." section at www.joanruddimanedd.com for more information.