

# Clean-Up Ideas

## 1. Give a Warning



**Flash the Lights:** Pre-teach that flashing the lights means it is almost time for clean-up.



**Set a Timer:** Tell the class how many minutes until clean-up.



**Use a Sound Cue:** Examples include bell, shaker, rainstick, drum, triangle, kazoo, harmonica, or a clean-up song on tape or cd.

## 2. Give a Direction



**"First... Then...":** First... Then... directions prepare children for the transition by telling them what is next and giving them a destination.



**Assign Roles or Areas:** Give children specific clean up tasks or a specific area of the room to clean up.



**Give Toys to Clean Up:** Place toys in children's hands to help them get started cleaning up.



**Sing a Clean-up Song:** Pre-teach that the clean-up song means it is time to start cleaning up.



**Play "Beat the Clock":** Turn clean-up into a race game.



**Model & Assist:** Participate in clean-up with the children.

### 3. Reinforce!



**Cruise & Praise:** Wander the room and praise children who are cleaning up. Make it fun by wearing funny glasses, using binoculars, or wearing a clean-up cape or an inspector badge. Or, make "clean-up inspector" a classroom job and have a child look for friends who are cleaning up.



**Thank-you Song:** To the tune of "Goodnight, Ladies" or "The Hello Song" *Thank you, (name), thank you (name), thank you (name) for cleaning up our room.*



**Sticker Charts:** Give stickers to children who are cleaning up, or put them on individual or classroom sticker charts.



**Earn Classwide Party:** Put a scoop of beans, marbles, or popcorn in a jar when children are cleaning to show progress toward the classwide goal of a popcorn or other party.