

no allowance. paid for character.

Two boys, 12 and 14, blended family, four years in. This is the system that stopped the "that's not fair" fights. Chores are just living here. Good deeds are what earn. Here's the list and how it works.

CHORES (THESE DON'T PAY)

Nobody pays me to do the dishes. Chores are what it costs to live in a house. Ours run Monday through Thursday, plus Sunday reset. Fridays and Saturdays are off.

DAILY (12 & 14)

- tidy room
 - take your meds
 - shower on your days
- all three get checked off in the app. no nagging from me.

ON ROTATION

- dishes, 2 days each
- sweep kitchen / dining room
- wipe kitchen counters
- bathroom counters
- wipe down bathroom
- deep clean bathroom, once a week

LAUNDRY, START TO FINISH

- start laundry
- switch to dryer
- put laundry away

THE REST

- vacuum downstairs carpet
- dust cobwebs
- feed the turtle

LITTLE KIDS (IF WE HAD THEM)

- toys away
- clothes in the hamper
- clear your plate
- feed the pet

Everything's on a weekly schedule so nobody argues about whose day it is. The app tells them. I don't.

EXTRA JOBS (THESE CAN PAY)

Real jobs with a real price, agreed on before they start. Backyard, cat litter, the garage, the stairs. They ask. We set the number. Then they do it.

GOOD DEEDS (THIS IS WHAT EARNS)

Not tasks. Character. When we catch it, we say it out loud, and it earns something on the spot.

- kind without being asked
- owned a mistake before I caught it
- told the truth when a lie was easier
- helped a sibling without being told
- shared without a fight
- stayed calm when they had every reason not to
- finished something hard without quitting

TEENS

A quarter to fifty cents, cash, right then. Small and real. A few dollars a week and they feel it.

LITTLE KIDS

A token instead. A marble in a jar, a sticker on the fridge. Tokens buy off the menu.

THE REWARD MENU

The kids helped build it. They know what things cost, so there's no negotiating.

EASY

- ice cream for dessert
- DJ in the car
- skip one chore

MEDIUM

- pick family dinner
- extra 30 min TV
- park of your choice

ULTIMATE

- movie night, front room
- living room campout
- beach day

TWO RULES

Nobody cashes out alone. Siblings catch up before anyone spends on a family reward.

We don't remind them. Forget to claim it, it's gone.

What they save for is almost never stuff. It's time with us. Build the menu around that.