

## **Teaching The Next Generation To Clean**

One aspect of being a good parent is to teach children life skills so they can grow up as adults to lead happy, healthy and productive lives. Such life skills include cooking, cleaning and doing laundry. The following are some tips from Nancy Bock of the Soap and Detergent Association on how to effectively introduce children to these tasks.

**Make sure the chore is age appropriate.** Preschoolers can put away unbreakable dishes and toys. Older children can clear the table, help load the dishwasher and make their beds. Preteens and teens can clean their rooms, assist with laundry, and help with dusting and other cleaning chores.

**Make safety a priority.** Always provide proper adult supervision. Do not allow children to use cleaning products that have a warning label such as “Keep out of reach of children.”

**Develop a cleaning schedule.** Children do better when they know what is expected of them and when it is expected to happen.

**Tap into children’s concern for the environment.** Set a good example with sustainable practices such as following label instructions as to how much and what strength of a product to use, and disposing of empty containers in an environmentally responsible way.

**Teach children to read product labels.** Show them what can be found on the label, e.g., the list of ingredients, instructions for use, storage and/or disposal information, safety information, and the manufacturer’s name, address, telephone number, and web address.

Source: Soap and Detergent Association July/August 2009, Cleaning Matters newsletter at <http://cleaningmatters101.com>