

## **Planner, Planner on the Wall**

by Helen Kornblum

Are you juggling a family and work outside the home? Does family life and community work keep you busy beyond words? In either case, you have probably learned to use a planner to keep track of your many priorities and errands.

Planning is a basic life skill. Why not start teaching your children about the benefits of time management? Put up a family calendar that everyone can use to enter their special school dates and extracurricular activities. Young children may not read or write, but they can use stickers or pictures for events that affect them. This activity, started early, will prepare students to maintain their own school and assignment calendars as they get older.

A family calendar, kept where all of you can see and use it, is an early warning system for potential overlaps and double-booking. It will help you see if one child (or you) are over-scheduled. You can also use it to claim and protect family time.

Once the calendar habit takes hold, the family will have a growing sense of control about how they spend their time and if they are doing the things they really want to do. Time is our most precious commodity. Keeping track of it helps us learn to value it and use it well.

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