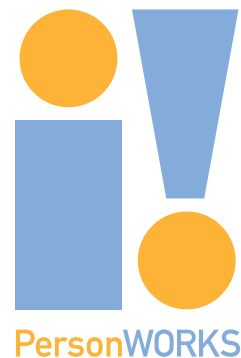


IN THIS NEWS LETTER, WE WILL DISCUSS...

- PRESTO! Turn Your Basement into a Garage
- Tip of the Month
- Keeping Track of your Kids' Memories



PRESTO! Turn Your Basement into a Garage

Recently I worked on a house in Seattle that had no garage, but ample space in the basement. The owners decided they wanted to use this space as a garage and wood shop.

Step 1: We needed to determine the space's "zones." For example, in their basement/garage, the owners required several areas -a.k.a. zones- for bulk items such as diapers, baby clothes, paper towels, toilet paper and extra pantry items. In addition, they needed separate zones for toxic items, such as paints, stains, and weed killers.

Step 2: We needed to scope out a wood shop area that would also have distinct zones -an area for storing all of the wood, space for gluing, and so on. After we determined the zones we jumped right in and sorted through the boxes.

Step 3: We determined what to keep, toss, and donate or sell. There wasn't enough room for a few big items -like the air compressor and jig saw table- so we plan on selling these items on Craig's List.

Step 4: Purchase shelving units and bins to store the stuff (or in their case use what you already have). We are still in the process of sorting the boxes completely. My normal rule of thumb is to sort first, then purchase, but in this case he already had the shelves.



This project is not yet done, but the basement/garage is on its way to becoming a manageable space to store their stuff and be a workable space to do wood working.

Tip of the Month



When mailing bills and letters, print out labels with your name and address to save the time you'd spend writing on the envelopes over and over. Another smart tip is creating a mailing station that has your printed out return labels, stamps, envelopes and checkbook. If, like me, you're fortunate enough to get those free "gifts" of pre-addressed return labels in the mail, don't throw them away! Keep a few, and in a pinch use those instead of typing and printing new ones out!



Keeping Track of your Kids' Memories

I was at a July 4th picnic with my dear friends and we got to talking about how to keep track of our children's unforgettable sayings and key events. We all agreed that these memories are very important and they should be recorded in an organized way. There were so many great ideas! One friend pointed out that all of us get baby books, but they are usually only good for the first year. That observation is what really got the conversation going and kept the bright ideas coming!

Record their memories in the Eat, Poop and Sleep journal – This baby activity journal is slimmer than your average baby book so you are more likely to keep track your little one's special memories and essential data. Information such as when and what your baby is eating, his weight, length and a percentile, or when she is sleeping etc; all of these are priceless. Later on, you can transfer the memories to a more formal baby book if you so desire. Here's the Eat, Poop and Sleep Journal in two colors: <http://tinyurl.com/pqt8u8>.

Record your memories in a small spiral notebook that holds a pen – Keep it in the same place at all times. When your rug rat does something extra cute (or not so adorable!) you can jot it down before you forget the details. Again, you can always transfer these items to a more formal keepsake book at a later date.

Create a baby blog – Creating a blog is really easy, you just need a place to host it! Go to www.blogger.com to get started. Or, look into creating an entire website in your child's name by going to www.register.com. Either option is a great way to communicate all your favorite anecdotes and photographs to your friends and relatives. Plus, as my friend pointed out, you'll be given an extra nudge by relatives -especially the grandparents- to maintain and update your little ones' blog or website.

Baby book – For their first year (sometimes up to five years) a standard baby book is a great place to record his first word, the date and time she was born, as well as details like getting his "first tooth." Some baby books will also have places to record first trips, first outings, etc. Here is a great baby book: <http://tinyurl.com/n4y6ya>.

