

Procedures at Home

Lena Nuccio-Lee was having problems with her two kids leaving clothes all over the floor. How she solved this problem is in the **Going Beyond** folder for Chapter 19 at EffectiveTeaching.com.

Lena Nuccio-Lee is a professor at the University of New Orleans. She teaches the classroom management course. She shared the following “Procedures” story with us.

As mothers, we sometimes get into the habit of picking up for our children, because it is faster to do it ourselves!

I have a procedure of throwing downstairs dirty clothes that the children take off, and placing them next to the garage door, because the washer and dryer are in the garage.

I also have a basket at the bottom of the stairs where I throw things that need to go upstairs.

My two children, Joseph and Lorraine, would come home and start taking off their socks and shoes and leaving them where they landed. I would come in after them, throw the socks next to the garage door, and put the shoes in the basket to go upstairs.

Well, I was listening to one of your tapes for the one hundredth time—the one on procedures. It was all stuff that I teach! But, I had not incorporated this at home with Joseph and Lorraine.

So, when they came home from school the next day, I taught them the procedure.

- *They are to take their shoes off and put them in the basket at the bottom of the stairs.*
- *Then, they take off their socks, unfold the cuffs, and put them in the pile by the garage door.*

They immediately did it, and I was very proud. Of course, once or twice that first week, I had to stop and look down at the socks and shoes and say, “And what’s the procedure, please?” They would then quickly do the procedure.

This was so much better than picking up after them and fussing all the time.

But, the best was yet to come. The following week, when they came home, they went straight to get a snack and watch a little TV, while I worked in the computer room. Joseph came running into the computer room holding an uncuffed sock and exclaimed, “Mommy, Lorraine forgot the procedure!”

I laughed so hard! After I stopped, I asked him if he could go remind her about the correct procedure.

Parenting is so much easier now!