



ORGANIZING LIFE AS MOM

inspiration and planning pages
to help you get your act together

by Jessica Getskow Fisher

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GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER

Three summers ago I gave birth to my sixth child, packed up all my worldly belongings, and moved halfway across the country to a place I'd never even been. Literally. In that order. My baby was exactly one month old when I boarded a plane to the West Coast. And I wondered, "What in the world are we doing?"

My husband took three children by land from Kansas City to San Diego; I took three by air. Each of us made the trip without any other adult help.

(No one ever said we were completely sane, did they?)

My parents met me at the gate. I was smiling on the outside, a disheveled piece of womanhood on the inside. I was perspiring under the sweatshirt hiding the evidence of my toddler's battle with

airsickness. She lost. And so did I. I had tried my best to clean up the vomit in the tiny airplane washroom, but I knew it was not a thorough job. I wore only a bra under a zippered sweatshirt.

In a way that was how I felt. Presentable on the outside, but a total mess underneath. And it felt like that for quite awhile.

My life, that is, not my clothes.

It seemed that in tackling three major life changes: having a new baby, moving cross country, and discovering a new community, I had turned my home and my life upside down, inside out, and backwards.

I was able to limp along for quite some time. While there were boxes in every corner, I could still put food on the table and clean clothes on my children's bodies. But, even once I hid the half-unpacked boxes in the garage, things still seemed out of order. I couldn't find the bills. I couldn't find the kids' school papers – or the rulers that they needed for their math assignments. But I knew we owned twelve if we owned one!

Life was passing us by, and we were racing to catch up.

I remembered back to past life transitions and when my older

children were born. What did I do *then* to make life not seem so crazy? How come it felt so disjointed *now* and what should I do about it?

I needed to come up with a plan, commit it to the Lord, and try my hardest to cut the chaos and haphazardness from our home and our schedule. I started by revisiting my household notebook and getting it back in order. That helped -- immensely. I realized that we were in a new season of life. I needed to reexamine how I organized my life, keep what worked, and find new ways to make our household run more smoothly.

Feel it, too?

Maybe you feel the chaos, too. It doesn't have to be a major life change that sends you reeling out of orbit. Life happens. And disorder follows. So, even if you don't have a "good reason" for it, take heart. You can get things back in line.

This book is a record of what I did to put some calm back in my storm. It's a compilation of the worksheets I've created over the years to help get my act together. While it certainly isn't foolproof, it works for me.

Life appears a little more sane than it did three years ago.


Realistically, I don't think I will ever "arrive" at that moment where everything is as it should be. Life isn't always completely manageable. But, if I – or any other mother - am to stay sane, I need to take a glimpse at the territory around me and make a plan.

These ways may not be the best ways for you. But, hopefully, **they'll get you thinking as to the best ways to organize your "Life as MOM."**

YEARLY GOALS

goal	specific actions to take	what I need to make it happen (help, resources)	X
{Personal}			
{Family}			
{Home}			
{Financial}			

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE
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4	5	6
11	12	13
18	19	20
25	26	27

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3
7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

THE WEEK OF

Special Events to Remember:

Activities (ie school, housework, sports, meals)	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday

Goals for the Week

DON'T FORGET!

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

WEEKLY MEAL PLAN

Menus

Groceries

Breakfasts

Lunches

Dinners

Snacks/Desserts

SAMPLE pages

PANTRY STAPLES CHECKLIST

Canned Foods		Baking		Dairy	
	diced tomatoes		flour:		milk
	tomato sauce		baking soda		cream
	tomato paste		baking powder		butter
	black beans		salt		cheese
	pinto beans		sugar, white		eggs
	chili beans		sugar, brown		yogurt
	chick peas		sugar, turbinado		cream cheese
	hominy		sugar, powdered		
	green beans		yeast		
	corn		quick oats		
	olives		old fashioned oats		
	chiles		corn meal		
			nuts	Grain/Breads	
			chocolate chips		rice
			cinnamon		quinoa
Other			vanilla extract		barley
			dried fruit		pasta
			honey		bread crumbs
			maple syrup		tortillas
			oil:		crackers
			cocoa		
			spices:		

EVENING HIGH FIVE



DAY TRIP PACKING LIST

	change of clothes		tablecloth or blanket
	diaper bag		formula
	picnic stuff		cell phones & chargers
	paper towels		
	stroller		
	baby carrier		
	camera & batteries		
	cash		
	backpack		
	hand sanitizer		
	feminine products		
	cooler		
	entertainment for the car		
	portable booster seat with tray		
	bottled water		
	juice boxes		
	sippy cups		
	non perishable snacks		
	hats		
	sunglasses		
	sunscreen		
	first aid kit		
	emergency ice packs		
	flashlight		

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jessica Fisher is a busy mom of six young children, aged toddler to teen. (Homeschool) mom by day, she moonlights as a freelance writer, blogger, and cookbook author.



Published in over 85 regional parenting publications, Jessica enjoys writing for periodicals as well as the web. She writes about ways to manage a home and family and still keep a smile on your face at LifeasMOM.com and posts “delicious ways to act your wage” at [Good Cheap Eats](http://GoodCheapEats.com). She is a regular contributor on [Life Your Way](http://LifeYourWay.com) and [Simple Homeschool](http://SimpleHomeschool.com). Her writing has also been featured on [5 Dollar Dinners](http://5DollarDinners.com), [Money Saving Mom](http://MoneySavingMom.com), [Organizing Junkie](http://OrganizingJunkie.com), and [Simple Mom](http://SimpleMom.com).

Jessica is the author of a forthcoming cookbook in the *Not Your Mother's* series, published by the Harvard Common Press. She has also authored a number of ebooks, including [Organizing Life as MOM](http://OrganizingLifeasMOM.com), [Summer Survival Guide](http://SummerSurvivalGuide.com), and [FishMama's Guide to Cooking with Children](http://FishMamasGuide.com).

For more information about Jessica, go to Fishmama.com or visit her at either of her two blogs, LifeasMOM.com and GoodCheapEats.com