

rotating other chores. Letting everyone do chores on “flextime” can be especially helpful when parents are working different shifts or kids are always coming and going.

Gayle Gruenberg, a professional organizer from Park Ridge, NJ, whose kids are 7 and 5, has a floor-to-ceiling bulletin board in her kitchen featuring a household responsibility chart. It breaks jobs into three categories: expected, appreciated and

the more optional “knock-my-socks-off.” Gayle says the chart is a great visual reminder for her family. Like many couples, she and her husband, Jack, each have a specialty: hers, daily cleaning and shopping; his, cooking and laundry.

If *Working Mother* readers are any indication, a lot of husbands are in the laundry business. “My husband has his pottery studio in the basement, so he tosses in loads of wash while

he works,” says Julia Moore, an Indianapolis arts administrator. “He also vacuums and dusts because I have allergies. As for me, I cook and grocery shop because I like it and he can never decide what to cook.”

Meanwhile, their two kids rotate tasks neither child is crazy about. One cleans the kitchen each night after dinner while the other keeps the kids’ bathroom clean. The next week, they switch jobs. No one likes doing the kitchen, a long and lonely job, but working together isn’t an option. “They’d kill each other,” groans Julia, whose 14-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter are in an oil-and-water phase.

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**79%** of working moms  
say their husbands  
help with housework

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**41%** say their guys  
help every day

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Source: *Working Mother* Smart Mom Council Survey