

# Mom SCIENCE

I've decided to use the process of natural selection with my laundry. You know, that's when I wash and dry it and then leave it in the laundry room where everyone will have to go to select it...naturally.

Wikipedia (the ultimate authority when you're in a hurry) says natural selection is the process by which individual organisms with favorable traits are more likely to survive and reproduce than those with unfavorable traits.

Well, when it comes to laundry, this process is anything but natural. The organisms that are favorable – like socks with mates, for example – are the least likely to reproduce. But jeans that are half a mile too short, jackets with broken zippers, and Barbie doll outfits are breeding like crazy.

Clearly, in order to stamp out those organisms with unfavorable traits, momkind must step in.

Most moms have noticed the shirt that keeps showing up in the laundry, but never seems to show up on her kid. It isn't really dirty. She knows that. Hey, she's no dummy. She went to college. She understands basic scientific principles.

Yet the shirt keeps reappearing and it's never on the child. It has unfavorable traits, the worst of which is that somebody paid good money for it. It hasn't seen a hanger since the day the cashier gently removed it from the clear plastic one at the store and folded it neatly into a bag. It is an unloved article of clothing.

That's a pity, truly, but I've decided I can no longer waste my time washing it over and over again in blatant denial. So it will stay in the laundry room, clean, dry and folded. If no one comes to select it, it will go to charity to bless someone else's mom. Maybe then it will find love and a place of its own in the closet.

We moms use every little bit of what we learned in school. If you don't believe me, I can always explain how physics factors into any experience involving a child, a spoon, a wall, and oatmeal. ●

~CAROLYN ERICKSON



## Mother's Guide

TO CLOTHING & LAUNDRY

### Sorting Little girls' laundry

Three loads: Whites, darks, and pinks.

### Sorting Little boys' laundry

Four loads:

- 1) Thomas the Train pajamas and t-shirts.
- 2) Transformers pajamas and t-shirts.
- 3) Cars pajamas and t-shirts.
- 4) Pants that still have bugs in the pockets.

**School outfits:** Must have no stains, be neatly pressed, and have shoes to match. School clothes must be kept on a hanger in the closet - NOT under the bed, on the floor, or on any animal, living or stuffed.

**Play clothes:** Any items that have seen better days, show some tummy or ankle, or were received as gifts from Uncle Frank. Play clothes are NOT required to match, nor do they need to make you look "just like Hannah Montana."

**Dress-up clothes:** Wearing Mom's shoes is fine; Mom's bra, however, is off limits. Other acceptable dress-up clothes include: princess dresses and tiaras, hula skirts and leis, cowboy hats and boots, and doctor's lab coats and stethoscopes. (What you may NOT do: issue royal decrees that parents must obey, take up belly dancing, ride the dog, or play doctor).

**Socks:** Should be worn right side out, with shoes. The good pairs should NEVER be separated, even if Barbie really, really needs a sleeping bag.

**Underwear:** Yes, you must wear them. And only one pair at a time.

**Pajamas:** There is no such thing as dying from licensed-character-pajama deficiency. Wear the ones I bought on sale and go to sleep. You aren't going to see them anyway – your eyes will be closed! ●

~CAROLYN ERICKSON