

## Help for Disorganized Students and their Frustrated Parents!



*Steven loses homework in his own backpack.*

*Ellen comes home in 30 degree weather without her coat.*

*Billy procrastinates until he is forced to pull an all-nighter.*

*Stacy spends hours studying, but still gets bad test grades.*

*John freaks out when he has to write anything from a paragraph to a research paper.*

What these students all have in common is a lack of organization. And life with a disorganized child can be a vicious cycle—parents become frustrated with their child, the child becomes frustrated with himself/herself, grades and self-confidence begin to drop. Even very bright children can flounder in school without proper strategies to manage their time, belongings and schoolwork.

Rhona M. Gordon, M.S., CCC-SLP, an organizational specialist with over 30 years of experience, has seen firsthand how difficult school can be for many students. Some children have formal diagnoses such as ADD or ADHD, others have simply been labeled lazy, and still others say they “just don’t care”. Gordon disagrees, “I have never met a student who does not want to succeed in school. Many kids just don’t know how to accomplish it.”

To teach children new strategies that will help them better plan and complete everyday tasks without stress, Gordon developed the *Thinking Organized* approach. After helping hundreds of students in her private practice to *Think Organized*, she compiled her strategies into a book for parents and their children. **Thinking Organized For Parents and Children: Helping Kids Get ORGANIZED for Home, School & Play** (©8/07, [www.thinkingorganized.com](http://www.thinkingorganized.com), \$14.95 trade paperback) offers six hands-on planning tools so parents can help prepare their children for a lifetime of success.

Each chapter of **Thinking Organized** offers a step-by-step guide for parents and their children to learn and practice key skills. The *Thinking Organized* program teaches strategies such as organization of materials, time management, memory tools, note-taking, study skills and written language. These strategies give students the tools to independently manage their personal and academic obligations, and lay the groundwork for a successful life.



For example, material organization is divided into independent exercises to help a student learn to document work in an assignment notebook, maintain an organized binder and keep up with all of

his/her supplies. To improve written language, detailed, easy-to-follow structures are explained, first for writing just a paragraph and then for a longer expository essay.

“When these underlying skills for success are taught and practiced in the home,” Gordon tells parents, “daily life usually becomes less frantic and more orderly, and grades naturally improve.”

**Thinking Organized** empowers parents to help their children establish a firm foundation for a successful academic career, as well as develop strategies that will be used for a lifetime. The frustration of living with a disorganized child may soon be a thing of the past.

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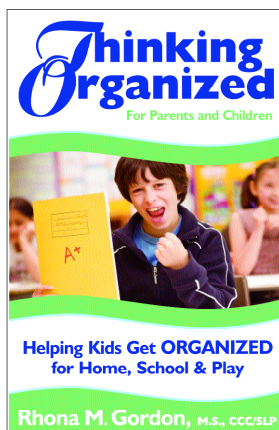
Rhona M. Gordon, M.S., CCC/SLP is an organizational specialist with over 30 years of experience and an ASHA certified speech and language pathologist. In her private practice, Gordon has helped hundreds of young people—from elementary school age through graduate students—to start *Thinking Organized*. She also serves as a consultant to public and private schools, and conducts seminars for parents, teachers, therapists and school administrators nationwide.

If writing is the brick wall, Gordon offers a few quick tips. **Thinking Organized** suggests:

- Begin by brainstorming for topics. Define a main idea or thesis that both meets the criteria and is within the student’s ability. Jot down specific questions that will be answered in the writing.
- Help the student write an outline or make a web map detailing the main points to be discussed. Many times, the questions asked during brainstorming will become the key points of the essay and can easily be organized and expanded upon in the outlining or web mapping step.
- Teach your student to structure each paragraph using the **S.E.E.** system.
  - **S:** First, make a Statement, a main idea.
  - **E:** Next, give Evidence or an Example from text material or research.
  - **E:** Finally, Explain how the evidence supports the initial statement.
- After writing, be sure the student saves time for a “final check.” This can be a careful proofreading first by the student, then by a parent or trusted friend.

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To request a review copy, arrange an interview with Rhona M. Gordon, or for any additional information, please contact Kate Bandos at KSB Promotions  
**800-304-3269** or 616-676-0758 • fax 616-676-0759 • e-mail: [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com)



## **Thinking Organized For Parents and Children** **Helping Kids Get ORGANIZED for Home, School & Play**

by Rhona M. Gordon, M.S., CCC-SLP

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Thinking Organized Press, 8639-B Sixteenth St, Ste 290, Silver Spring, MD 20910