**Life at Collins Home 09/01/17 By: Alena Pelfrey**

As you already know from experience in your own homes…there is always something to clean or fix around the house. Take that, add umpteen kids with crazy schedules and you have Collins Home. On a positive note, we have plenty of opportunities to teach our kids life skills. We believe it is important that each of our children have age appropriate chores. We also believe in giving the kids play time and providing lots of fun activities. Most of them haven’t had a lot of those opportunities so we strive to find the ‘just right’ balance. Having the age appropriate play and chores ensures the balance is right between work and play!

Recently, the Housemom in the girls’ home organized a day for all the kids to pull weeds around the office. They moaned, they groaned and they whined, but when it was all done and we told them how impressed we were with all their hard work, they beamed! This also reminded me of the times I’ve listened to CCH Alumni recount how they disliked, at the time, having to do chores, help with the BBQ, paper route, etc. but how they look back on it as adults and are grateful that Joe and Anne cared about them enough to teach them these important life skills.

For this article, I want to share a few reasons we believe chores have a positive impact on our kids.

* Chores gives our kids life skills that will benefit them forever. We all need to learn how to run a home, after all, we all have to live somewhere. We therefore need to understand how to clean, how to cook, how to shop, how to budget, how to do DIY, etc.
* Chores give children a sense of achievement…even when they whine and complain while doing them.
* Chores teach them to think ahead about what needs to be done, what the consequences are if the chores are not done, etc.
* Chores build teamwork. Being part of a family that lives under one roof means you are automatically part of a team. This involves listening to others, depending on others, delegating, working together, helping out others who struggle (i.e. younger siblings), and a whole variety of other related skills.
* Chore time is a great time to chat with kids. Working along-side them allows them time to open up at their own pace.

Prayerfully, teaching this balance of play and responsibility gives our children skills they need to eventually live independently and have successful lives.

**Don’t forget…**Our 34th Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner is quickly approaching and will be held at Northside Elementary Cafeteria in Seneca, SC on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 4-7pm. Each $12 plate includes ½ slow grilled chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, potato chips, roll, pickles and cookies with tea or lemonade. You can pick up your plates and take them home to watch our Clemson Tigers beat Louisville! You can also dine with us in the cafeteria and catch up with old friends. We look forward to seeing you there. Give us a call to reserve your tickets today at 864-882-0893.