

Time to Play?

It was a bright, sunny Friday. The birds were chirping, the squirrels were scurrying about, and the trees were swaying as a gentle breeze calmly blew past. Johnny, who was sleeping, suddenly opened his eyes and checked his watch. It was 6 am, and he thought to himself, "Perfect! Today is going to be a great day!" Johnny bounced out of bed, ran downstairs, and started to do what he does best – play! He had Friday off from school and he was going to make the most of it.

Just as he started playing, his distracted dad, who was hurrying out the door to meet his running group, asked, "Did you finish your chores?" Groaning, Johnny got up but then sat back down with dread as he began thinking about all the many chores he had to do. An hour later, his still distracted dad, who was hurrying to get ready for work, spotted Johnny sitting on the couch and assumed the best, "Great job, Johnny. You finished your chores efficiently for once." Still dreading all the chores he had to do, Johnny hadn't even started. He knew he had to get up though, but he just couldn't get motivated to actually do it. Another hour passed, his dad had left for work already, when the phone rang. It was his mom, who was out of town for work. "How's everything going, Johnny? Dad called and told me how responsible you've been this morning with your chores. Great job on stepping up while I'm away. I can't wait to see you again. I'll be home tonight." Finally, with the pressure mounting, Johnny got himself up to start his chores. Glancing at his watch, however, he noticed it was now 9 am, and he hadn't even eaten breakfast yet. He proceeded to make himself some eggs and pancakes and then sat down to eat. When he was finished eating, he checked the time again. Two more hours had passed. Johnny better get a move on if he wanted to play!

As he began to wash the dishes, Johnny surveyed his surroundings and realized that he had made a big mess making his breakfast. He had used four pans, three bowls, three plates and a bunch of utensils. Adding these new dishes to the existing pile, Johnny knew it would take him at least an hour to do the dishes. Scrubbing away, Johnny got distracted by the bubbles and stopped to pop them. The next thing he knew, it was 3 pm by the time he finished the dishes, and he hadn't even started his laundry yet! He knew he had to work faster if he wanted any time to play. To save time, he decided to wash his dark and his light clothing together, but little did he know, he had a new red shirt that turned his whites all pink! He would have to wash the whites again to fix this. By the time he finally finished washing, drying and folding all his clothing, it was now 5 pm. He was exhausted, but excited that he could finally sit down and play.

Just as he starting playing, the front door opened and in came his mom and dad, who greeted him excitedly, "Let's go out to dinner to celebrate how responsible you were today with your chores!" Groaning, he thought to himself, "I guess playing will have to wait." On his way to the restaurant, Johnny reflected on his day and how much time he had wasted. He had been up since 6 am but yet had no play time! At least tomorrow was Saturday. He could still play tomorrow and then do his homework on Sunday. Interrupted from his happy thought, he heard his mom say, "By the way, Johnny, I forgot to mention that tomorrow, we're volunteered to help at the marathon your dad's running in. We'll have to wake up early and will be there all day." Sighing, Johnny vowed that from now on, he had better practice smart time management or else risk never being able to play again.

Word Count: 693