

Massachusetts Moms Sell Their Kids... (Stuff)!

Many Massachusetts families are finding themselves overwhelmed by the amount of stuff their children have accumulated in such a short amount of time. Looking to reduce the impact on the environment, clean out their clutter and make some cash, many smart and environmentally conscious moms and dads are dropping off their kids gently used items at weekend-long seasonal children's consignment sales events in New England. While these types of sales are extremely popular in the South, the concept is relatively new to the Northeast. Widely attended by local moms, teachers and grandparents, the savvy shopper can always find great deals on gently used kids' stuff.

Typical sale items will include: kids' clothing items (newborn through teen), toys, games, books, furniture, shoes, baby equipment, sports equipment and maternity clothing. Consignors set their own prices and are paid usually between 50-75% of the selling price, depending on the event. Sellers who also volunteer earn more profits and get first pick of the merchandise at VIP presale events. Consignors register with the sale event usually through an online inventory system. Consignors are responsible for hanging, tagging, preparing and pricing their items. Registered consignors make an appointment to drop off their items prior to the event. The sale owners will advertise, organize and promote the event, reaching a much larger, targeted audience than a typical garage sale and without as much overhead cost and space constraint as a consignment shop. Consignors are pleasantly surprised by how much money they earn while clearing their house of clutter.

Massachusetts seasonal consignment sales hope to provide the community with a unique shopping experience. Consignors can expect an easy to use, professional tagging system and a higher profit yield than garage sales or consignment boutiques. Consignors also have the advantage pricing their own items. Sales events consist of an organized layout of merchandise similar to that of a department store. After each sale any unsold items that the consignor chooses not to keep are usually donated to a local charity on the consignor's behalf. By recycling our children's gently used merchandise we can all help reduce our fashion footprint. Seasonal children's consignment sales events help consignors, shoppers, and the community.

Sale events are typically held twice a year. Spring/Summer events are usually held March through May and Fall/Winter events are usually held August through November. Spring consignment season is underway and these local entrepreneur- moms look forward to seeing you at their next sales events. From information technology, finance, medicine, marketing, retail, and communications, these local sale owners come from various backgrounds, but they all want to help other families save and earn money while reducing the impact on our environment and providing donations to local families. Please like the sales on Facebook and spread the word to your friends. Remember, "word of mom" is the best advertising when it comes to bargain shopping!

There They Grow Again (Kristin) Hanover, MA April 12-13 theretheygrowagain@yahoo.com

Déjà vu Couture (Kerry & Lisa) Upton, MA April 20-21 www.dejavucouturesales.com

Next Size Up (Kristin & Tiffany) Milford May 3-5 www.nextsizeupkids.com

Sweet Repeats (Jacqui) Danvers, MA May 4-5 www.sweetrepeatsconsignment.com

LexFUN! Children's Sale (Valerie) Lexington, MA May 18 - www.lexfun.org