

Q & A: Good kid, messy bedroom
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Question: “What is your advice if your 16 year old daughter’s room is a mess but she has a 4.0 cumulative GPA in school her Junior Year, is involved in multiple clubs at school, two youth religious groups, varsity athlete on year round teams, and has never gotten a speeding ticket? Do you realize something has to give and if it’s a messy bedroom, it’s really not that bad?”

Answer:

Absolutely, and yes to your two questions! Something has to be give, and yes, a messy bedroom is not the end of the world. If we could only bottle your kid and give a bit of her to other families! Sounds as if your daughter is a wonderful, responsible, creative and organized individual—but just not when it comes to her bedroom! I would suggest two rules though: keep the bedroom door closed, especially when company comes over, or even on an everyday basis so you don’t have to look at the chaos, and do not allow food or drink in her bedroom. As a parent you need to pick your battles, and I like to choose those that affect a child’s health, education and moral welfare. She sounds fine in all of those departments, but we do want to keep her mess from moving into other areas of the house, such as bugs emanating from her room infesting the rest of the home. That’s the reason for the “no food or drinks in your bedroom” rule. Other than that, leave this kid alone—she sounds fine and to be applauded for her perseverance, involvement and responsibility!