Agile Definition of Done and Doing Dishes

Agile Humor, a true story of agile clashing with teenage chores.

I just had a conversation with my teenage son regarding what "doing the dishes" means, which evolved several user stories which included the following using the **As a ___ I need ____ so that _____** format for user stories. I realized that we never had a decent list of user stories, and we had no acceptance criteria, plus the definition of done was never stated.

As a family member **I need** the dishwasher to be unloaded **so that** we don't end up with an endless backlog of dishes.

As a family member **I need** the dishwasher to be loaded **so that** the dishes don't pile up endlessly in the kitchen.

As a family member **I need** the pots and pans that didn't fit into the dishwasher to be washed **so that** they are available to be used in the future.

As a family member **I need** the dishes to be put away after they are dry **so that** the counter tops are clear to prepare the next meal.

I guess it could have been phrased as a single user story that stated:

As a member of the family **I need** the dishes to be done **so that** the kitchen will be clean and ready for the next meal.

This would have included acceptance criteria that covered the user stories from above, but as a teenage boy who wants to get out of the dishes as soon as possible this story proved to be too epic.

See also:

- User Story
- Definition of Done
- Epic
- Acceptance Critiera