Some people think that older children should take the responsibility to take care of their younger brothers and sisters, while others think that parents should do the whole work. Which do you prefer?

According to reports, most parents are prone to take care of their younger children rather than distributing the work to their older children, however, I think that older brothers and sisters should be responsible for their siblings rather than throwing all the tasks to their stressed parents.

First, being able to share the burden for their parents gradually cultivate and train those older kids to become a more reliable and conscientious person since they are served as role models for their siblings. It is obvious that most teenagers today as older brothers or sisters, find it hard to reach the ideal goal and lack the ability of staying self-disciplined. The core cause of this common issue is that they are not endowed with any responsibility so there is no pressure or worry about the things they do. For example, before my brother was born, I don’t think that my actions would have any influence on people because nobody is looking up to me. Even though I didn’t finish my homework or I’ve stayed lazy for a whole day. It doesn’t seem to be an important issue. In contrast, after my brother was born, he becomes a “copy cat”. When I’m taking care of him or just simply staying with him, every little thing I do would be expanded on a very large scale and my brother would imitate my behaviors, whether it is good or bad. In that way, I instinctually behave like a role model for him and always finish my schedule because I felt a sense of responsibility and obligation while taking care of him.

Second, it is necessary for the older brothers and sisters to relieve the stress on their parents and improves the overall condition of the family. The study conducted by Cornell University indicates that 87% of the families globally were under stress and some of the parents even suffer from psychological disorders due to the burden economically and the stress they’ve encountered in their work time. Parents also need to relax time so that they would still feel love and hope in their life because they are sacrificing for our happiness and well-being, and those factors have already waste lots of time and energy for those struggling middle age people and they would be overwhelmed if they still have to take care of their babies after finishing a long day of work. Take our family as an example, after finishing a whole day of school, I would pick up my brother from his school and go back to our home. Cooking a simple meal for him and my parents would not be a demanding task so that when my parents got back from work, they can just sit around the table and take a big breath. It is our obligation to understand the difficulties of our parents and be willing to make some changes to benefit our whole family rather than doing nothing.

Nevertheless, there are cases of older brothers and sisters irresponsibly taking care of little babies that caused tragedies since they are not familiar with how to do the job. Some of the parents might also feel a sense of insecure because they do not trust their older kids and would prefer to do the tasks all by themselves. These situations could be reversed if firstly, those older kids are willing to share the burden with their parents and take the responsibility, second, the parents offer some general instructions and teach those teenagers how to take care of their siblings. In that way, tragedies and conflicts could be eliminated.

Overall, in my own view, I prefer to give the opportunities to the older children to take the responsibility of raising their siblings.