



# Responsibility

**RESPONSIBILITY** means doing what one is supposed to do. A responsible person completes tasks, corrects mistakes, and strives to do his or her best.

## LESSON 1

Read the definition of **RESPONSIBILITY**. Explain that it is important for students to be responsible every day, everywhere. Have the students trace their shoe or foot on a sheet of paper. Read: **Today we will be “walking with responsibility.” Within the outline of your footprint, list three personal responsibilities you have at home, school, or in the community.** Examples include: doing homework, eating healthy, getting enough sleep, attending school regularly, and following laws. Emphasize that each individual student is responsible for his or her own actions. If time allows, have students cut out their footprint and mount them on the wall, one in front of the other (as if walking) to remind students to “walk with responsibility.”

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to make a list with a family member of daily responsibilities in their home.

## LESSON 2

Review the definition of **RESPONSIBILITY**. Emphasize that a responsible person is accountable for his or her actions. Tell students that they show responsibility through the choices they make. Ask students to predict the outcome in the following situations. Read: **You are supposed to do homework. You decide to watch TV instead.** (predict outcome) **You and a friend are playing ball and accidentally crack a neighbor’s window. Nobody is watching, so you decide to run away.** (Predict outcome) **You spill a glass of milk and blame your brother.** (Predict outcome) As time allows, invite students to tell what they would do in each of the situations and determine the consequences. Encourage students to be accountable for their actions, even if it gets them in trouble.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk with a family member about being accountable for one’s actions even if there are negative consequences.

## LESSON 3

Explain that when people blame others for everything that goes wrong, they are not taking responsibility for their own choices and actions. Read: **A responsible person does not use excuses to explain his or her mistakes. A responsible person accepts blame when mistakes are made or a goal is not reached. In each of the following scenarios, a student is blaming someone else. Raise your hand if you can tell who is really to blame and explain why.** Ask students to analyze each scenario and determine who should accept responsibility.

- 1) “Cameron made me so mad, I couldn’t help hitting him!”
- 2) “Susie told me to steal the candy bar, so it’s her fault!”
- 3) “My brother needed me to play basketball with him, so I didn’t complete my homework.”
- 4) “I played a great game of soccer, but my teammates made so many mistakes that we lost the game.”

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to tell a family member what they have learned about accepting personal responsibility when they make a mistake.

## LESSON 4

Review the definition of **RESPONSIBILITY**. Ask: How responsible are you? Tell them you will ask some questions, but you do not want them to answer aloud. Explain that this exercise is to help them evaluate themselves. Ask the following questions: **How many times in the last week have you...**

- **Goofed off instead of doing schoolwork?**
- **Not finished something you started?**
- **Blamed something that was your fault on someone else?**

Tell students to think of how they can be more responsible in these areas. Challenge students to show more responsibility in every aspect of their life.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk with family members about things they do each week that shows responsibility and describe how it impacts the life of each family member.

## LESSON 5

Review the definition of **RESPONSIBILITY**. Ask students to recall the story of “The Three Little Pigs.” Remind students that each of the little pigs had a choice to make in regard to building a safe house. Ask the students to decide which pig acted responsibly and tell why. If time allows, ask students to tell what the other two pigs could have done differently for a better outcome.

**School/Home Link** - Ask students to tell a family member the story about “The Three Little Pigs” and ask the family member how each of the pigs acted or could have acted responsibly.