



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.

Activity 1

Discuss the meaning of **RESPONSIBILITY** with your child. Explain how a responsible person completes tasks, corrects mistakes, and tries hard. Help your child develop responsibility for his or her schoolwork by helping to create an after-school schedule. Talk about things to include in the schedule. Examples could include: playtime, relaxation, snacks, homework, etc. Prepare a chart together that effectively budgets available time. With your guidance, keeping a daily schedule will help your child develop good habits that will yield success in school and throughout life.

Activity 2

Discuss with your child the following quote by Booker T. Washington: *"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him."* Explain to your child that a wonderful sense of accomplishment comes when we fulfill our responsibilities. Set your child up for success by assigning age-level appropriate chores followed by sincere praise for a job well done. In addition to helping your family, he or she will learn how great it feels to be responsible.

Activity 3

Play a "Blame Game" with your child to illustrate how easy it can be for people to avoid taking responsibility. Ask your child who could be blamed in the following scenarios. Discuss the reasoning behind each answer.

- The cookie jar is filled with a fresh batch of home made cookies. You ate over half of them and have a stomachache.
- Your sister dropped her necklace on the floor. You stepped on it and broke it in pieces.
- The teacher wrote a homework assignment on the board. She usually reads it aloud before dismissal. She left early. You forgot to do your homework.

Teach your child that making excuses and blaming others keeps us from growing and improving. Encourage your child to take responsibility for his or her actions.

Activity 4

Discuss what it means to be responsible for something, like a pet or a favorite possession. Identify specific actions that could illustrate responsible and irresponsible behavior towards it. (Examples: play with it, keep it clean, protect it from harm, etc.)

Ask your child to explain the consequences that would follow irresponsible care of a favorite possession or pet. Reinforce the importance of fulfilling responsibilities.

Activity 5

Discuss the story of *The Three Little Pigs* with your child. Ask him or her how many of the three pigs showed responsibility. Imagine with your child what it would take to build a house out of straw or sticks or bricks. Explain that the two irresponsible pigs did a poor job building their houses because they chose quick and easy ways to finish their work, rather than doing a good job. Help your child understand that a responsible person does his or her work well, and then is free to play or relax. Ask your child how the story may have been different if all the pigs had shown responsible behavior.