

RESPONSIBILITY

Parent Resource

What is responsibility?

Responsibility means owning my actions, using good judgment and practicing self-control.

As your child gets older, it is important for him or her to continue to develop responsibility by taking ownership of his or her life. It is also important that your child acknowledges that he or she is accountable for the choices he or she makes.

In grades six to eight, children begin:

- ✓ Understanding the importance of following laws and rules.
- ✓ Considering multiple perspectives when making a decision.
- ✓ Working towards attaining personal goals.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate responsibility:

RESEARCH LAW AND CONSEQUENCES

Ask your child to share about laws in the community and consequences for not following them.

EXAMPLE

For example, why are there traffic lights and speed limits? What would happen if drivers disregarded the laws?

REFLECT ON RESPONSIBILITIES

Have your child reflect on responsibilities he or she may have when starting high school.

EXAMPLE

For example, learning how to drive, joining a club or organization or joining a team. Have your child write down these responsibilities and how he or she can prepare for and complete them.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Developing healthy responses to negative peer pressure.



Following through on commitments and obligations to others.



ACTIVITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Talk with your child about current chores. What responsibilities has he or she been given in the household? Take inventory of which chores have been completed and which have not. If the chores have not been completed, discuss the consequences and how it impacts the household. Make connections to adult responsibilities such as voting, taking care of family members, paying bills, etc.

BY TEACHING YOUR CHILD TO BE RESPONSIBLE, YOU ARE HELPING HIM OR HER POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.