

Responsibility (Grades K-2)

For PurposeFull Families



EXPLANATION:

This month we are talking about Responsibility! The dictionary talks about Responsibility in a few ways: duty, accountability, and the independence to make decisions. We are using a slightly different definition at school:

Responsibility: to take action and understand how our choices affect others, ourselves, and the world.

Every day we make choices and take actions. Being responsible means we know how those choices impact all people and things involved! Sometimes we get to choose what we are responsible for, sometimes we earn new privileges through consistent and healthy choices, and sometimes we are responsible for things simply because we are a part of a community (and we all have to do our part!). We will spend time talking about what it means to be responsible for our classroom. We will practice self-control and develop helpful practices. We will think about people with a lot of Responsibility like Michael Jordan and Eleanor Roosevelt. Together, we can take Responsibility for a more kind, generous world!

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- You really want a new game, but you need a new pair of shoes. How do you decide between wants and needs so that you can spend your money responsibly? Talk about wants and needs in your life and how you've learned to tell the difference!
- What are the responsibilities you have at home? How do people know what they are responsible for? Which responsibilities are you really good at?
- What's something that you want for our home? Would getting this thing demonstrate Responsibility with our time, money, or energy? If so, how might we earn this special something by showing Responsibility?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK:

- Why is it important to consider other people when you're making your decisions?
- Who is the most responsible person you know? What makes them responsible?
- What are some things that might get in the way of showing Responsibility? What are some things that might help us practice Responsibility?
- What does Responsibility feel like to each person in your family?

APPLICATION:

Books:

- [*Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*](#) by Judith Viorest
- [*But It's Not My Fault*](#) by Julia Cook
- [*Dream Big, Little Pig*](#) by Kristi Yamaguchi
- [*Interrupting Chicken*](#) by David Ezra Stein
- [*After The Fall*](#) by Dan Santat
- [*Do I Have To?: Kids Talk About Responsibility*](#) by Nancy Loewen

FOR YOUR READING:

- [*Are You Teaching Your Kids Responsibility?*](#) by Cara Sue Achterberg
- [*14 Factors That Influence a Child's Behavior or Trigger Their Misbehavior*](#) by The Pragmatic Parent
- [*Teaching Responsibility with The Jewel Method*](#) by Ashley Phipps
- [*Parenting with Love and Logic*](#) by Foster Cline and Jim Fay

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ACTIVITY:

Create a Responsibility Race at home! Make sure everyone has 3-5 chores to accomplish and set a timer to see who can do them the fastest/most creatively/most thoroughly. Establish a prize for the winner and make it into a weekly game!

PURPOSEFULL PURSUITS:

Lighten Their Load

As a family, brainstorm ways in which you might make someone's life a little easier by helping a neighbor or family friend with one of their responsibilities. Could you bring your neighbor's garbage cans in off of the curb when you get yours? Could you offer to sweep the street in front of their house after they've mowed the lawn? Could you make an extra portion of a meal and take half to share?

Toughness: 1

Time: 1

Type: Group

Who is Responsible for Me?

As the adult at home, think about who is responsible for where you are today. Who made choices that affected your career in a positive way? Who was a role model for you over the years that inspired you to be kind or honest or respectful? Who helped shape your life in positive and important ways?

Bring the family together and invite that person over or call them. Role model to the whole family what it looks like to thank that person for how they've impacted your life and let them know you feel responsible to pass their good influence on!

Toughness: 4

Time: 1

Type: Individual

Responsibility Jar

Brainstorm a privilege or special treat that you'd like to work towards as a family. Then, write out specific ways everyone can show Responsibility around the house daily, weekly, or monthly. Create a Responsibility Jar and decorate it together. Each time someone completes one of the responsibilities on the list, place a small item like a bean or a coin in the jar. When the jar is full, celebrate with your special treat!

Toughness: 2

Time: 4

Type: Group

Responsibili-Tree

Using a piece of brown construction paper (Tip: Cut apart a brown paper bag to recycle it and use it as paper) draw the outline of a tree trunk and branches. Using a different color of construction paper for each family member, cut out small leaf shapes that will fit on the tree. On each leaf, family members should write down one task they are responsible for at home. Glue the leaves onto the branches of the tree. Hang up the tree as a visual reminder of your family's responsibilities.

Discuss:

- What happens when some of the leaves start to fall of the tree and responsibilities do not get done?
- How do we work together as a family to complete all of these responsibilities?
- Are there any leaves we need to add to the tree?

Toughness: 2

Time: 2

Type: Group