

# Responsibility

*(November & December Parent Edition)*

## Definition of Responsibility:

**A person who is responsible meets the demands of duty, is accountable for the consequences of his or her choices, pursues excellence and exercises self-control.** (Additional info for parents: Being responsible includes showing perseverance, initiative, effort, and goal setting. Demonstrating responsibility in all areas of life is an important part of being successful and becoming a person of character.)

## Quotes:



“The price of greatness is responsibility.”

-Winston Churchill

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

-Aristotle

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”

-Abraham Lincoln

## Discussion Starters:

- Discuss these scenarios: You went to the movies last night and didn't do your homework. You begged your parents to take piano and promised to practice everyday; instead, you sneak outside to play. You wake up grumpy and come to school with a negative attitude. You tell your mom you will clean your room, and instead you spend time on the computer.
- Think of an area in your life about which you want to become more responsible. Set goals and keep track of your success.
- Ask your child to assess his/her level of responsibility at the end of the day by asking, “How did your day go?” Use this rubric: Level 4: Respectful, responsible, helps others; Level 3: Respectful, responsible; Level 2: Works when reminded; Level 1: Not working or bothering others.
- Create a family chart outlining each family member's responsibilities for their household and in their community.
- Have your child sing the responsibility song s/he learned at school.
- Responsibility includes a sense of duty, a sense of accountability, a sense of excellence, and a sense of self-control. Talk about each of these ideas with your child.
- Tell your child about someone that you count on? Why?
- Who are the people that count on you? Why do they count on you? Discuss this with your child.
- Do you think you're responsible? Why or why not?
- What happens if your mom is waiting at home after school for the plumber to arrive, and he doesn't come on time (and you have to go to soccer practice)? How does one person's irresponsibility affect others?

## Resources:

- Good Ideas to Help Young People Develop Good Character* available in every school.
- [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org) and [www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/page13.htm](http://www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/page13.htm) (character values)
- The Picture Book of Eleanor Roosevelt* by David A. Alder (Holiday House, 1991)