



Rearing Responsible Children

The Facts

In helping children grow, parents try to instill many values among their children. One of the most important values and life lessons is responsibility. Responsibility helps a child grow emotionally and physically. Building responsibility helps build upon a child's self-esteem, behavior and communication skills, to name a few. In learning how to handle situations, take on tasks and complete a job, one is modeling the ideal portrayal of responsibility.

Achieving Responsibility

Four keys to achieving the value of responsibility

1

Allow your children the opportunity to independently accomplish a task, rather than finishing it for them. Some parents feel that their children are unable to complete a task. The truth is that they will become unable to do so, if their parents don't give them the chance to learn and master certain skills.

2

Anticipate that it will take some time to teach children responsibility. When there is no need to hurry, pressure or urgency to be somewhere else or to be doing something else, it is the best time to instill responsibility in your child. Rushing a child will not get the lesson done quicker, rather it will only make the child feel discouraged, self-conscious and uncooperative.

3

Don't demand, rather ask your child to do something. Invite your child to take part in certain household activities, i.e. washing the dishes. By accomplishing this task together, you will have the opportunity to



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gradually teach your child, and this will enable him/her to take on the task themselves.

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Initiate consequences when a job is not done, rather than just nagging a child to get it done. Consequences show a child the importance of completing a task. (i.e.- When a child does not pick up their dirty clothes around their room and/or house, take the clothes they leave laying around and store them in the garage. Then a child will begin to realize that in order to have clean clothes they will need to take on the responsibility of taking care of their clothes.)

Help your child become more responsible by:

- ◆ Giving him/her the chance to take on responsibility.
- ◆ Dividing a task into smaller segments and then teach them one by one, until the child reaches the point when he/she can handle the task themselves.
- ◆ Initiating a list, in order to organize responsibilities, and have him/her keep a personal list.
- ◆ Acknowledging your child's responsibility.
- ◆ Letting your child learn from his/her accomplishments and failures.
- ◆ Showing confidence in his/her ability to do what is responsible.
- ◆ Providing positive encouragement and independence, as a result of their responsible actions.

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