

Responsibility (Grades 3-5)

For PurposeFull Families



EXPLANATION:

This month we are talking about Responsibility! The dictionary talks about Responsibility in a few ways: fulfilling your duties, being accountable and having consequences, and the independence you can earn to make decisions on your own. We are using this definition at school:

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

All the choices we make impact the world around us in big and small ways. The responsible person works to be aware of this impact and makes decisions based on what is good for as many people as possible. This requires reflection, self-control, and a willingness to take ownership. We will spend time talking about how to build and use these skills so we can earn more Responsibility in our life. We will make sure everyone knows what role they play in creating a successful classroom and school community. We will think about people with a lot of Responsibility like Helen Keller and the Dalai Lama. When we work together, when we share the Responsibility of a better world, we can accomplish great things!

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- When is the last time that you didn't take your responsibilities seriously? What were the consequences? What did you have to do to fix it, to make it right?
- Accepting Responsibility can be challenging when you have made a mistake. It is easy to blame the mistake on others and deny that you had anything to do with it. When we choose not to accept Responsibility, we can start feeling guilty on the inside. What does guilt feel like to you? How can you accept Responsibility when you notice the guilty feeling settling in?
- What are some things you deeply care about? How do you show Responsibility for those things? These could include hobbies, special people, places, pets, issues, etc..

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK:

- Stakeholders are the people who are affected by our decisions, who are involved with our lives, and/or who care about us. Who are the stakeholders in your daily decisions?
- What's the opposite of showing Responsibility at home and at school? What happens when we don't take Responsibility?
- Why is it important to show Responsibility at home? Where are some other places that we can show Responsibility, and how does Responsibility look the same or different as it does at home?
- What are you glad you are responsible for? What feels scary or hard to be responsible for?

APPLICATION:

Books:

- [Ms. Bixby's Last Day](#) by John David Anderson
- [Rules](#) by Cynthia Lord
- [Squawking Matilda](#) by Lisa Horst
- [Salt In His Shoes](#) by Deloris and Roslyn Jordan
- [Leo The Lightning Bug](#) by Eric Drachman
- [Win or Lose by How You Choose](#) by Judge Judy Sheindlin

FOR YOUR READING:

- [9 Tips For Teaching Kids Responsibility](#) by Alonna Friedman
- [How to Talk So Your Kids Will Listen and Listen So Your Kids Will Talk](#) by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish
- [The Whole Brain Child](#) by Daniel Siegel and Tina Bryson

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ACTIVITY:

Schedule some time to meet as a family over your favorite board game. Before you begin, ask aloud: What is our Responsibility to one another while we're playing? Do we have a Responsibility to the rules? What is our Responsibility about how we act whether we win or lose? As you play, note the difference that an intentional focus on Responsibility makes.

PURPOSEFULL PURSUITS:

Bucket List Table Talk

What are some things that you've been wanting to do, either individually or as a family, but just haven't done yet? Over dinner, share some of these things! Write them down to create your Family Bucket List and discuss what it will take to make that happen. Which of these can we earn through responsible actions? Which of these will require us to work together? Who is responsible to make them happen?

Toughness: 1

Time: 2

Type: Group

Adopt A Space

In this challenge, you will carve out time as a family to head to a local park or beach or neighborhood or public space to help beautify it by picking up the trash. Grab some rubber gloves, some garbage sacks, and some germ gel and enjoy some togetherness time while demonstrating what it means to "do your part" and show Responsibility for your community!

Toughness: 3

Time: 3

Type: Group

Responsibility Assembly Line

Choose one household chore (or more!) that requires multiple steps. Then have each member of the family select one step to complete and collaborate to get the job done!

Maybe it is washing the dinners, doing laundry, cleaning the living room, unloading the groceries - whatever it is, see who can be the most fast or effective at their piece of the puzzle!

Toughness: 2

Time: 2

Type: Group

Responsibility Action Cup

We can demonstrate Responsibility by doing more than is expected. As a family, brainstorm tasks that can be completed at home that are not part of everyday chores. Write each idea on a popsicle stick and place them in a cup. Encourage family members to pull out an "action stick" when they have spare time and complete the task to demonstrate Responsibility.

Here are some ideas: Organize the children's bookshelf, find 5 items in house to donate, organize art supplies, clean out the junk drawer, go on a neighborhood walk and pick up trash, weed the garden...the possibilities are endless! Role model what it looks like to go above and beyond and challenge members of your family to see if they can keep up.

Toughness: 2

Time: 1

Type: Individual