

Family Viewing Guide

Character and Life Skills: **Responsibility**

Grade Level: **3-5**

The Facts

It is never too early to begin taking responsibility. Experts at **Kid's Health** list things young people can be responsible for in their families, schools, and communities:

1. Find and follow the rules anywhere you go.
2. Stand up for rights and rights of others in appropriate ways.
3. Be a good person.
4. Take care of your body — be clean, be safe.
5. Respect the rights of others.
6. Take care of belongings and respect the belongings of others.
7. Take charge of your own learning.
8. Care about others who need support.

(source: Kid's Health, www.cyh.com)

Start a Conversation with Your Kids

1. What does “taking responsibility” mean to you?
2. Why is it important to be a responsible person?
3. Do you know someone that is responsible? What do you think of them?
4. How can we help you take more responsibility at home?

Advice from the Experts

Parents.com gives the following advice to parents on teaching responsibility

1. **Let them help you.** When your child is invited to participate, they feel valued. They will take these good feelings and learn to take ownership of their home and feel pride in maintaining it.
2. **Show kids the way.** Play to a child's skill level. First, you can demonstrate how to complete small tasks. For example, if your child wants a snack, show them where the apples are and how to wash one off.
3. **Model Responsibility.**
4. **Praise them.** Keep up positive vibes by offering specific praises for actions. Children will develop a sense of ownership for any repeated action. This constant communication helps them take initiative in other situations.
5. **Manage your expectations.** When you ask a young child to make their bed, it may be lopsided. Don't criticize. Recognize a job well done. The next time you make your own bed, show them how to do it.