



Bringing Up Responsible Children

By

Rajeshwari

Super Kids



Responsible means that we do the right thing even when no one is looking. We do the right thing because it is right and not because we will get credit or praise for doing it.

—West Virginia University Extension Service,

“Character Counts—Responsibility”



Our Parental Instinct is to Protect. We try to do in all sort of ways.

Deep down, however, regardless of what we do, we know that the only real and lasting way to protect our children is to teach them to be responsible for themselves.

We should realise that we have to do more than “give them a fish”, we have to teach them “how to catch fish”. We have to teach them responsibility.



MOB: Management by Objectives

POB: Parenting by Objectives



What does it mean to teach a child responsibility?

To one it might mean teaching a child to keep his things in place, to someone else it might be teaching them to make household jobs.

Responsibility means more than any of these. It means to become mature in the sense of being responsible to family, to self, to society. It means being responsible for all aspects of our lives and our situations, for our talents, for our potential, for our feelings, for our thoughts, for our actions, for our freedom.



What does it mean to teach a child responsibility?

The act of responsibility involves being trusted, making decisions, and answering for one's behavior.

To build self-esteem, parents should increase the level of responsibility as their children grow and mature



On the most basic level, responsibility is obedience. On the next level it is the care for how our actions and attitudes affect others. Then it is discipline. At its highest level it becomes service. Children best learn responsibility in this sequence. They learn first to be responsible to their parents (Obedience); then to be responsible for society for who they are and for what they do (morality and care); then to be responsible to self (discipline); and finally, to be responsible to and for other people (service).



Responsibility Matrix

Age	Responsibility	Responsibility for	Responsibility to
6 or younger	Obedience	Things Work	Parents
7 to 9	Morality	Actions Talents and Gifts Peaceful Attitude	Society
10 to 11	Discipline	Choices Character Potential	Self
12 and above	Service	Family Dependability Contribution	Others



Attempting to teach responsibility out of this sequence is hardly successful. It is difficult for a child to feel responsible to society if he has not previously learned responsibility to his own parents. The ages on the chart are general and approximate. Different children can grasp and gain different forms of responsibility at different ages. What is important is not the precise age, but the sequence in which responsibility levels are taught.



To succeed in teaching responsibility to children it is crucial to acknowledge and understand six important principles:

- 1. Every child is different:** We should remember that different children require different kinds of motivation. Some may need more pushing, others may need more sensitivity.

- 2. Expectations determine performance:** One amusing thing that we keep learning over and over about teaching responsibility is that children do exactly what is really expected of them.



3. Example is the best teacher: An important tool in teaching any kind of responsibility to children is by Example. Once in a while we need to step back and look at ourselves. If we are trying to teach our children something we never learned, maybe our first step is to change ourselves.

4. Consistency is crucial: Consistency and follow-through are, without a doubt, the hardest part of teaching responsibility. We have to be pretty tough-skinned at times in order to be consistent.



5. Children learn from what is really happening:

We are good at manipulating children to be polite or get A+ grades. Children are always learning. The trouble is, they are not learning what the parents think they are teaching. They are learning to manipulate. Our prime concern must be for their learning and well-being, not for our convenience or our reputation and image with others.



6. Pride is the sustaining force behind responsibility: Children become capable of accepting responsibility as they learn to feel the right kind of pride in themselves. Often it is a parent's praise that leads to a child's pride.



Responsibility to Parents

The first subject children can learn to be responsible to is you, their parent. They should be responsible to you:

1. For Obedience because they are your children.
2. For the things they have received.
3. For portions of the family work because they are part of the family.



Teaching Responsibility

Toddlers can wash their hands, pick up their toys, choose orange juice or apple juice, and share toys with friends to practice responsibility. From an early age, children need to be able to make controlled choices and have limited authority. Young children need to have tasks that involve only the short term. Larger projects should be separated into smaller tasks, perhaps throughout the day or week.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Obedience

Obedience is the first step on the responsibility staircase. Without it, other forms of responsibility are hard to reach.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Obedience

Methods to teach responsibility for Obedience:

1. Story

2. Comparison Story: Make your personal story by including things that are relevant to your family.

3. Get commitments from children



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Obedience

Methods to teach responsibility for Obedience:

- 4. Apologizing:** To give children a chance to put things right and to teach them that punishment can sometimes be avoided by a sincere apology. Apologizing is particularly appropriate when one child has hurt another. If the child will hug the one he has hurt, ask his forgiveness, and promise not to hurt him again, he should be able to avoid the punishment (as long as he has not committed the same offense recently). This often does more toward restoring good feelings than any punishment would.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Things

It is unlikely that a child will accept responsibilities that he cannot see, such as talents, potential, jobs, or character, until he accepts responsibilities that he can see – his possessions.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Things

Most of us have too many material possessions. As our society becomes more complex and our lives have more and more facets, things can begin to overtake us. More than ever before, in order to live happily, it is necessary to simplify, organise and be responsible for things. We must teach children to take responsibility and to learn to control things before things begin to control them.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Things

Methods to teach responsibility for Things:

1. Family laws
2. Example
3. Ownership
4. In-place tags
5. Simplification



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Things

Methods to teach responsibility for Things:

6. Pride Sign
7. Search and Rescue Game
8. Gunny Bag Method
9. Bed Throw Method



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

“All work and no play” may make Jack a dull boy, but it doesn’t happen very often today. The more frequent occurrence is “all play and no work” – and that makes Jack an irresponsible boy.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Much of the satisfaction and joy of life comes from the acceptance and completion of work. Children who never learn to work not only fail to accomplish worth while things as adults, but they also forfeit one of the basic joys and fulfillments of life. Work can be simplified and given to children.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

1. **Sing while you work:** Tell your children how good it feels to get a job done. Tell them how glad you are to have the strength or ability to do a certain job.

2. **List down the things and ask children to do things which they think they are big enough to do.** There are four keys to your success:
 - a. **Keep it simple:** Give children one or two basic daily jobs and one or two basic weekly jobs to do. Keep it simple so that they can remember.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

- b. Be sure that the child knows exactly how to do his job.** Do it with him several times. Show him the finer points. Show him to take pride once it is done right.

- c. Follow through:** Be sure that the child does his job every day and every week. Habits take a month or two to develop, and every time he fails to do a job, the habit forming process is set back almost to the beginning. He won't do it if he doesn't think you'll follow through.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

- d. Make it visible:** Give them stars once in a week to encourage them and tell others about it when he is around.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

- 3. Job auction and Rewards:** Small children find it difficult to understand anything except immediate rewards (even a smile of approval is a great reward).
- 4. Build something together:** To reinforce the pleasure of work by sharing it and having children see your example. Whether it is a bed-sheet house, or a sand castle, or washing the vehicle together, it creates in children an honest desire for the responsibility of work.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

- 5. Have a pot with a flower plant:** This helps in teaching children the law of harvest, which should be at the heart of understanding of the responsibility of work. Tell children that you will help them and answer their questions, but help them understand that they are responsible for their own flower plant.



Responsibility to Parents

Responsibility for Work

Methods to teach responsibility for Work:

Children at ages 3 and 4 have a real need to feel responsible. They thrive on responsibility and feel great satisfaction in doing if they are properly taught how.

It is always best to say, “Lets clean up”, instead of commanding them to “Go and clean”.



Responsibility to Parents

As children grow older, we assume that they have so many outside responsibilities (homework, tuitions, piano classes...) that they can't handle any home responsibilities. Often our natural inclination is to think, "I'll do the cooking, cleaning, and clean their rooms and leave to them the important things". In the long run, this is the wrong course.



Responsibility to Parents

Children should understand that mother also has many responsibilities. They should know that she too has things that she likes to do to improve herself. When there is routine work to be done, everyone should share the responsibility.



Responsibility to Parents

It is extremely important for the father to be a part of this understanding and to join the work. If he leads the children by willingly and cheerfully helping with cleaning and other household chores, then the children will offer far less resistance themselves.



Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to be taken seriously



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to listen to others





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to quality medical care



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to take care of themselves





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to a good education



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to study and respect their teachers





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to be loved and protected from harm



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to show love and respect to others





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to special care for special needs



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to be the best people they can be





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to be proud of their heritage and beliefs



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to respect to origins and beliefs of others





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to a safe and comfortable home



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to share in keeping it neat and clean





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to make mistakes



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility to learn from their mistakes





Children's Rights & Responsibilities

Rights

Children have the right to be adequately fed



Responsibilities

... and the responsibility not to waste food





All said and done you have to take responsibility to teach responsibility to your children.

**Thank You
&
Happy Parenting**