

# Children Must Act Responsibly

As adults, we have to accept responsibilities.

In the workplace, we are responsible for certain things – we are hired to do a particular job and are expected to perform efficiently and effectively.

At home, we are also responsible. We are expected to fulfill certain duties and act and behave in a particular way.

Very often, severe consequences are associated with failure to act in a responsible manner. In the workplace, an irresponsible employee can be bypassed for promotion or even dismissed from his/her position.

In the home, irresponsible parents can affect the lives of the people with whom they come into contact.

## Do children have responsibilities?

Of course they do. All children have responsibilities and as caring parents, we must teach them to accept their responsibilities.

In the school environment, all children are expected to act and behave in a responsible manner. Do not feel that this is beyond them. They are mature enough to know what is right from what is wrong. As parents, we must guide and assist them.

Here are some examples of the responsibilities of children.

Students' Responsibilities	Parents' Responsibilities
Do the homework that is assigned by the teacher	Must ensure that the homework is completed. Homework is given to pupils to revise and reinforce work done. It makes a better student.
Be respectful to all	Set examples by being courteous to all persons with whom they come in contact.
Always speak the truth	Parents must listen to their children and know when and how to act and react based on what their children say. Children have wild and vivid imaginations. They know what to say and how to bring about emotional reactions from their parents.
Always make a friend	Do not limit your children's interaction with only a selected few. Assist them in meeting new people and making them friendly to the new acquaintances.

These are just a few examples. The consequences of not accepting responsibilities are critical to a child's success.

Many factors contribute to the success of a child in school. Behaving and acting responsibly is one of the more important ones.

## Tips for doing homework

- Find a quiet place to do your homework that's away from temptations like television.
- Do your homework when you are not too tired. Some children like to take a break after school to play a little, before doing the homework. This is acceptable once the child does not become too tired. Some children need to do the homework early as they become too tired later on. You need to figure out your child and choose the best time for him/her.
- Once you decide on a time and a place, make it a habit.
- If a situation arises and you have to go out, then make the necessary adjustments so that your child can still complete the homework. Do not allow your child to see that simple excuses can be made for not doing homework. He will soon start making these silly excuses on his own. Small problems if left unchecked, develop into larger ones.
- If the child has to memorize something, some children learn better by talking out loud. Allow him/her to do this if it helps. Some even walk around the room and talk aloud. If it works for your child, then do it.
- Take a break – sometimes, a pupil can take a short break. This is recommended but do not allow him/her to sit in front of the television or play with his toys. The break for a few minutes is to stretch his legs, etc.
- Reward the child when he/she is finished with a snack (nutritious) or his favourite activity. It is worth repeating that television on a school night is not acceptable. Play a game (Scrabble).

# Tips for Making and Keeping Friends

- Look friendly, smile and say 'Hi'.
- Share things when you are playing with friends.
- Take turns – allow everyone to get a chance.
- Don't be bossy. Everyone must get a chance to be the leader or make the decisions.
- Keep calm – don't become too loud.
- Always have something nice to say to your friend.
- Try not to poke, grab or bump into your friends.
- Never make fun of anybody.
- Don't hit, yell or call names.
- Solve problems for yourself and if you can't find a solution, then ask the assistance of an adult.

# Tips in Solving Problems

- Identifying the problem – what exactly is wrong?
- What are some ways I can solve the problem?
- Which one seems the best?
- Try solving the problem using the one you selected.
- Figure out if the problem has been solved.
- Try another way if the problem has been solved.
- Is anyone unhappy or affected from the way I have selected?
- Discuss with an adult if no solution can be found. (If an adult is consulted, the adult should not simply provide the solution. Discuss and explain to the child and listen to the child's views on the matter. Together solve the problem.

Remember:

Responsibility brings maturity (it is not maturity brings responsibility).

Responsible students do better in school.

Make your child a responsible learner.

Support him/her.

Teachers can provide useful information about you child. Meet regularly with your teachers to bring about improvements in your child.