



## Help Your Child Develop Personal and Social Responsibility

Your child demonstrates personal and social responsibility when he acts and behaves in ways that show he cares for and respects himself, others, his belongings, and the world. Teach personal and social responsibility by creating a home where your child is expected to be helpful. Young children love to help. In fact, your child may want to help you make the beds or put away the laundry, he may imitate or copy you dusting the furniture or sweeping the floor, or she may say, "Let me do it!" while you try to repair a toy. Take your child up on his or her offers to help: these are teachable moments!

### INFANT:

- Talk to your baby about what you are doing to help the family and why: "I'm folding and putting away the laundry, so that everyone in our family has clean clothes."

### TODDLER:

- If your child spills his drink, teach him how to clean up the spill with a paper towel. Then, give him a hug!
- Give your child simple tasks — folding napkins, putting her cup in the sink, or throwing a tissue in the garbage. As your child gets older, ask her to help you collect the dirty laundry, or ask her to help you sort the laundry by color or match socks. Always say *thank you!*

### PRESCHOOLERS:

- If your child accidentally tears a page in a book, help her to repair it with tape or glue. Then, read the story together...twice!
- Have your child make a "get-well" card for a friend who is sick or make a "thinking of you" card for a relative.
- Show your child how to feed the fish, water the plants, and weed the garden. Thank him by giving him a sticker to wear or by putting a stamp on his hand.
- Make a chart that shows everybody's responsibilities for taking care of the house (e.g. parents and children), to show your child how everyone helps with chores.

### Book Suggestions

*The Little Red Hen.* Jerry Pinkney. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2006.  
*Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon!* Pat Cummings. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1991.