



Promoting Responsibility

Being responsible means making good choices or doing the “right” thing. It also means being helpful to family, friends, and the broader community. You can help your child learn to be responsible. Try:

Infants & Toddlers

- 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.”
- Read books to your child about community helpers.
- Let your toddler help you to sweep the floor, unpack groceries, or sort clothes for laundry. Praise him and let him know that his help is important.
- If your child accidentally tears a page in a book, work with her to repair it. Then, read the story together . . . twice!
- Make a game of being helpful! Pretend the laundry basket is a basketball hoop; see how many baskets your child can make with her dirty clothes. Or, set the timer and see how quickly your child can pick up his toys.
- Plant something together that you and your toddler can watch grow.

Preschoolers

- If your child spills his drink, teach him how to clean up the spill with a paper towel. Then, give him a hug!
- After grocery shopping, ask your child to help you carry light bags into the house. Then, show her you appreciate her help by sitting down together for a healthy snack.
- Show your child how to feed the fish or fill the dog’s water bowl. Thank him by putting a stamp on his hand or giving him a sticker to wear.
- Make a chore chart. Use pictures to list the tasks or activities that your preschooler can easily do: set the table, get dressed, report the weather, or get the mail.
- Encourage your child to help with yard work. Young children can pick up sticks in the yard, water flowers, or pull weeds. If you don’t have a yard, have your child water your indoor plants.

Book Suggestion

The Berenstain Bears and the Blame Game by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain

The Worst Day of My Life Ever! by Julia Cook and Kelsey De Weerd ☐☐

Do I Have To? by Nancy Lowen & Omar Wesley

Beatrice Doesn't Want To by Laura Numeroff • Busy Beaver by Nicholas Oldland

If Everybody Did by Jo Ann Stover • Trashy Town by A. Zimmerman