

+Responsibility: Parent Edition

The September Character Trait of the Month

Most parents want to raise **responsible** children. We want our kids to make good choices, and we want them to learn from their mistakes. This month, all Forest Charter students will be completing age-based lessons about **responsibility**; in the meantime, we hope you'll read this article about 6 ways you can encourage children to develop this important trait.

1. Give them chores. Studies show that giving children tasks to complete at a young age helps create a solid work ethic and self-reliance.
2. Teach money management skills. One easy way to do this is by giving your children an allowance for completing their chores. Allow your kids to spend this money the way they choose, so they can learn to value and manage money.
3. Give your child some space and freedom. Allow them to make some of their own choices about how they spend their time and who they spend it with. This will foster independence, and help them grow into responsible adults who feel comfortable making decisions.
4. Allow your child to face natural consequences and learn from their mistakes, including at school. Sometimes children will make bad choices, but this is how they learn and grow. Kids learn responsibility by facing the consequences of their actions. For example, if your child doesn't want to wear a warm coat, they may experience the natural consequence of being chilly on a winter day. The likelihood of forgoing the coat in the future will decline, as they learn to take responsibility for keeping themselves warm.
5. Give specific praise when you see your child acting responsibly. All praise is good praise, but praise is especially powerful when it's specific. For example, instead of just saying, "Good job," you could say, "I really appreciate the way you cleaned your room without being asked. You are being very responsible. Being responsible means that you are taking care of the things you need to do."
6. Be patient. Being responsible isn't always easy. Try to set age-appropriate goals, and praise the little successes you see along the way.

This article has been adapted from another source. The original piece can be accessed here:

<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/development/how-to-teach-your-child-to-be-more-responsible/>