

Responsibility leads to success in the classroom

Kids who learn to be responsible do better in school. They get along better with teachers and peers. They make better decisions. They're more apt to try, follow through and succeed.

Here's how to boost your child's sense of responsibility:

- Revamp his chore list. Are you still packing your child's lunch? How about making his bed? If so, pass the torch. Most elementary schoolers are capable of handling such tasks. Don't overload him with too many chores, but work toward giving him meaningful responsibilities.
- Expose him to money. If he does not have an allowance, consider giving him one. By letting your child manage his own money, he may develop more respect for it. Include him when you're working on your budget. Don't share specific financial details, but let him see what budgeting looks like. Say things like, "I'd love to order pizza tonight, too, but it'll have to wait. Payday isn't until Friday."
- Use consequences to teach. When your child makes a mistake, don't swoop in to save him (unless he's in true danger). By allowing him to experience the consequences of his actions, he's more likely to learn not to make the same mistake again. If you're always running to his rescue, he'll learn that he doesn't have to take responsibility for anything.

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