

Here are a few texts that will remind us of God's view of responsibility.

(2 Thess. 3:10, ICB) When we were with you, we gave you this rule; "If anyone will not work, he will not eat."

(Mat 25:21 NKJV) You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.

(Rev. 2:10, ICB) If you are faithful, I will give you the crown of life.

**Other terms for responsibility: Conscientious, faithful, dependable, reliable, trustworthy.**

## One Last Thought. . . .

*The work of co-operation should begin with the father and mother themselves, in the home life. In the training of their children they have a joint responsibility, and it should be their constant endeavor to act together. Let them yield themselves to God, seeking help from Him to sustain each other. Let them teach their children to be true to God, true to principle, and thus true to themselves and to all with whom they are connected. With such training, children when sent to school will not be a cause of disturbance or anxiety. They will be a support to their teachers and an example and encouragement to their fellow pupils.*

*{Ellen G. White, Child Guidance, p. 319}*



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**Christian Values**  
**Children Should**  
**Know**



**Responsibility<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Based on the book "10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know," by Dr. Donna Habenicht. Review & Herald

***Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. (Eccl 9:10 NKJV)***

By the time children start school they have learned many lessons in responsibility or irresponsibility.

### General Guidelines

- 1. Model responsibility in your own life.** Keep your promises to your children. Show you're responsible in the things you have to do – make your own bed, hang up your own clothes, fulfill your responsibilities at church.
- 2. Give children real responsibility.** Start when they're very young.
- 3. Notice and compliment responsible action.**
- 4. Use Grandma's rule rather than tangible rewards as much as possible.** Grandma always said "work before play" and "spinach before dessert." Encourage children to be responsible by doing their work first.
- 5. Don't rescue children from the consequences of their behavior.**
- 6. Dialogue about short-term and long-term consequences of behavior.** Play the game of "What will happen if. . .?" Don't rush in to supply the answers.

**7. Establish consequences for irresponsible behavior.** Be sure the consequences suit the kid's age.

**8. Teach that responsibility has two sides: avoiding wrong and doing right.** "I didn't do anything wrong" doesn't mean the child acted responsibly.

**9. Help children own their own behavior: admit their mistake, tell the truth, apologize, make restoration, and commit to more responsible actions in the future.**

**10. Encourage responsibility to God, as well as to family, friends, and community.**

### Two areas of responsibility

#### WORK

- 1. Start with easy jobs and gradually increase the difficulty.**
- 2. Give specific instructions so your child will know how to do the job.**
- 3. Make it rewarding to work.** Notice and compliment a job well done.
- 4. Develop responsible, positive attitudes toward work.**
- 5. Encourage jobs outside the home.**



#### MONEY

- 1. As soon as your child knows the names of the coins and their number value, start with a small allowance.**
  - 2. Teach your child how to set aside some of her allowance for giving to God and to other people.**
  - 3. Teach your child how to set aside some of her allowance for savings.**
  - 4. As soon as your child can write numbers, help him set up a simple system for keeping track of his allowance and what he has spent.**
  - 5. Discuss what your child is responsible for buying before you give the allowance.** For instance, by the fourth or fifth grade she may be responsible for buying some of what she needs for school (pencils, paper, etc.)
  - 6. Gradually increase her financial responsibility.**
  - 7. Before your children leave home, give them the experience of buying some of the family groceries and paying the household bills for a few months.**
  - 8. Give your children some experience with loans and paying interest.**
  - 9. Do not pay your children for doing their regular chores.**
  - 10. If you have followed a carefully planned program for learning to handle money, by the time your children are in senior high school and college they should be quite responsible with those dollars.**
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