

**Parenting Education and Family Engagement***Working together to help students be successful in school.*

## Take Home Tips

### Tips for Teaching Children Responsibility

**Start young.** Handing out responsibility to kids needs to start early.

**Let them help you.** Don't grumble and mope when it's time to do housework.

Smile and invite your son to help. It's teamwork, precious time with your child and a lesson that will one day send him off into the world with the ability to care for himself!

**Show kids the way.** Play to a child's skill level. First, you can demonstrate how to complete small tasks. If your son wants a snack, show him where the apples are and how to wash one off.

**Model responsibility and talk about it.** Banish a tableful of dirty breakfast dishes with the line: "Now we put our plate in the sink," as the meal ends. Use the same inclusive "we" phrases over and over to show how you can easily solve problems.

**Praise them.** Kids love to help. They want to help. To them, chores don't feel like work. Keep up positive vibes by offering specific praises for actions.

**Manage your expectations.** When you ask a five-year-old to make her bed, it may still be lopsided. Don't criticize. Recognize a job well done. The next time you make your own bed, show her how you do it.

**Avoid rewards.** Don't assume a reward system has to be in place for your child to learn responsibility. While a reward chart can be effective for some kids, others respond just as well to praise, spending time with you and feeling the boost in their self-confidence.

**Provide structure and routine.** Kids thrive on order. Instead of offering rewards to get them to meet responsibilities, set up a morning routine with a positive end result. Your son must brush his teeth, eat breakfast and get dressed before watching TV.

**Teach consequences.** Learning to take care of his things also helps a child develop a sense of responsibility for his actions. To get your son to clean up after an art project, inform him that he won't be able to play with his crayons and scissors until the next day if he leaves a messy table. Then you need to follow through.

