ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

GROWING UP RESPONSIBLE

ED U. GATOR LEARNS A TOUGH LESSON

DR. NASSEH HELPS OTHERS
id anyone ever say to you, “That was a very grown-up thing to do?” Chances are, that person was noticing how responsible you were. One of the first signs of growing up is acting responsibly! You probably do it a lot, but maybe you don’t realize how important it really is. You accept responsibility for yourself when you take good care of your teeth and your body and when you eat stuff that’s good for you like fruits and vegetables. You accept responsibility for your family when you help around the house by doing your chores, like helping with the dinner dishes or taking out the trash. You accept responsibility for the earth when you remember not to waste water or electricity, or when you remember not to litter. Whew! When you agree to accept responsibility, it’s a full-time job! But you know what you get in return? You get respect from other people and respect for yourself.

You know what’s another grown-up thing to do? Admitting you’re wrong when you make a mistake, or accepting the consequences when you’ve made a bad choice. Let’s say you break something by accident, or lose something that belongs to somebody else. Being honest about what really happened is very responsible. It’s easy to blame it on somebody else, or make up an excuse. But that wouldn’t be a very grown-up thing to do, would it? When you accept responsibility, people will count on you for important things, even if you make a mistake every now and then. We all make mistakes, because nobody’s perfect. But if everybody could act responsibly, the world would be a much better place!

VOCABULARY:
Admit: to confess or to accept that something is true.
Consequence: result of an action.

ACTIVITY:
Many adults have a lot of responsibilities. Some adults, like parents and teachers, are responsible for themselves and other people, too. Think of an adult that you know well and list some of their daily responsibilities.
Hi friends. Ed here. Boy, I really made a mess of things this time. Mom and Dad have been getting on me to pick up after myself. I guess I haven’t been very responsible with my stuff. I try to remember to put my books and clothes and games away, but sometimes I get busy with something else and I forget about all the clutter. Two weeks ago I lost two pieces from a game I took out, because I left it on the floor of our playroom for three days. Now it’s ruined!

But Saturday I really blew it! I ran in the house from playing outside with Alice and Franklin, and I left my baseball glove at the top of the stairs. While I was taking a bath, Gramps walked out of his room and tripped on my glove. He fell against the banister and threw his back out. I heard him yell, but by the time I got out of the tub, Mom and Dad were helping him onto the couch downstairs. Gramps was in so much pain, he didn’t get up the rest of the day! Mom and Dad were pretty upset. I felt terrible, because it was totally my fault. If I had listened to Mom and Dad and been responsible with my belongings, this never would have happened!

Of course I told Gramps how sorry I was, but somehow that didn’t seem enough. I decided to do whatever I could to make Gramps comfortable. All this week I came home right after school so I could be with Gramps. I missed baseball practice with the team, but I thought it was more important to come home and accept the responsibility for my carelessness. It turned out to be an okay week after all. Gramps and I talked a lot, which we haven’t done very much since we moved to Gatorsville Park. We talked a bunch about baseball, and he even helped me with some of my history homework. I wish Gramps had never gotten hurt on the stairs, but it made me realize how not being responsible can affect other people. I’m going to try my hardest from now on to be more responsible and pick up all my stuff, even before I’m asked!

QUESTIONS

1) What was Ed having trouble remembering to do?

2) Why did he lose two pieces of his game?

3) What should Ed have done differently when he came inside from playing?

4) What did Ed do that showed he was accepting responsibility for his mistake? What did he miss by being home with Gramps, and how did he feel about it?

5) How did Ed realize not being responsible affects other people?
WHAT IS THE COLOR OF RESPONSIBILITY?

Directions: The kids in the picture below are accepting responsibility. Color in the pictures with markers, crayons or colored pencils.

RESPONSIBLE WORDS

Directions: In your own words, explain what it means to:

- be trustworthy ________________________________________________________________
- keep a promise ______________________________________________________________
- do the right thing ____________________________________________________________
- be an honest person __________________________________________________________
- be dependable ________________________________________________________________
- respect other people ________________________________________________________
IN THE NEWSPAPER

Directions: Are you a responsible person? Are you trustworthy and dependable? I bet you are! Okay then, here’s what you can do. Look through the newspaper and try to find big letters that spell R-E-S-P-O-N-S-I-B-L-E-P-E-R-S-O-N. Paste them at the bottom of the space below. Then draw a picture of yourself standing proudly above those very important words!

I ACCEPT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES

Directions: You probably already have some important responsibilities at home and at school. Think of some things that your parent, guardian or teacher expects you to do. Make a list of those on the lines below the words I’M RESPONSIBLE FOR: Then make a second list of some things that you’re not doing now, but you think you could be responsible for, under the words I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR: Wow, you’re really thinking like a grown-up now!

I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR:

_________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________

I WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

_________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________
other Cat nudged Angie with her cold nose. “Time to get up Angie,” said the mother. “We’ve got to go find our breakfast.” Angie lifted her left paw and wiped some sleep out of her eyes.

“But mom,” she said, “it’s so early. I’m still tired.”

“Tired or not,” said Mother Cat, “there’s work to be done. You’re not a kitten anymore. You’ve got responsibilities!” While her mother was fixing up their home in the woods, Angie fell back to sleep. She began dreaming about running through a big field chasing an orange butterfly. Suddenly her mother nudged her again, a little harder this time. “Let’s go!” she said. “If you don’t help with the getting, you can’t join in with the eating!”

Angie stretched her paws and arched her back. She couldn’t put it off any longer. She hopped onto the ground and ran to catch up with her mother, who was already out of sight. “Boy,” she thought to herself, “this grown-up cat stuff is tough! Mom used to do everything for me. Now she expects me to do some things for myself!” Angie followed closely behind her mother.

“Keep your eyes and ears open,” said Mother Cat. “The woods are full of tasty little mice to eat, but you’ve got to find them and catch them first!” Angie looked this way and that way, but she didn’t see any mice. She did see a beautiful butterfly however, which swooped down right in front of her nose. Angie took off running after the butterfly. She chased it around some brambles and across a field. Then the butterfly flew higher and higher out of Angie’s reach.

“Angie!” Mother Cat was calling. Angie bounded back to her mother, who didn’t look very pleased. “Life can’t always be fun and games,” said her mother. “There’s time for work, and there’s time for play. Right now we’ve got a job to do. Come along.” Angie tried hard to listen to her mother’s instructions. Every once in awhile a bird or a rabbit would catch her eye and she thought about chasing them, but her mother would turn around and give her gentle reminders. Finally, after several tries, Angie caught her very own mouse.

On the way back home, Mother Cat kissed Angie on the top of the head. “I’m very proud of you,” she said. “You’ve showed me how responsible you can be. I think you’ll be a great hunter someday!” Angie purred softly. It wasn’t so bad being a grown-up cat after all!
Dr. Arshidokht Nasseh is a very busy and responsible woman. She works at Hillsboro High School in Nashville as a guidance counselor for students who come here from other countries. Dr. Nasseh helps her students with almost every aspect of their lives, from getting along in school to making sure they live in a safe and comfortable home. She now helps 275 students from 39 countries. That’s a big responsibility! But it’s just a small part of what Dr. Nasseh does. She also teaches multi-cultural education throughout the community, and volunteers at the YWCA, the YMCA, and the Nashville chapter of the United Nations. She also keeps track of the hundreds of families she has helped during her 18 years at Hillsboro High!

Dr. Nasseh was born and raised in Iran. She studied psychology at Tehran University in Iran, and studied counseling at Georgetown University and Northwestern University in the United States. She is called a “doctor” because she received a “doctoral degree” in Early Childhood Education from the Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. She has two sons and one daughter who are very responsible, too. They have all graduated from college in this country and have become very successful in their careers.

Dr. Nasseh’s family has lived through some very difficult years. At one time, they had barely enough change in their pockets to put gas in their car. Dr. Nasseh told her family, “We can either sit here and cry, or we can try to make the best of it.” They decided together to do whatever they could to survive, including working several jobs at the same time. Her family’s ability to accept responsibility has been an inspiration to many people who have come here from other countries. Dr. Nasseh says, “All of our ups and downs made us realize we are in charge of our lives with God’s guidance. We have to take responsibility to be the best that we can, and to be here for other people.”

**VOCABULARY:**

Guidance: advice or opinions.
Counselor: a person who gives advice.
Aspect: a part of something.
Multi-cultural: having to do with different races or cultures.
Psychology: the science that studies the mind.
Career: the way one earns a living.
TIPS

1) When your child acts responsibly, seize the opportunity to acknowledge and praise his actions. It's a great way to "catch your child" doing something good! Reinforcement for making the right choices can only encourage more of the same.

2) Give your child responsibilities. They can be as simple as cleaning her place after meals, feeding a family pet, or taking out the garbage. Your child may be very eager to help! In order for this to be a learning experience, make sure your child is consistent with her job, and that she follows through with a minimum of reminders.

3) Teaching your child to accept the blame for mistakes is a big part of learning responsibility. Make sure your consequences are delivered consistently, but fairly. The end result is for your child to be honest and admit when he has done something wrong. If a punishment is too severe it may close down the lines of communication in the future.

4) Your child will learn a great deal about responsibility from your behavior. Making and keeping promises are a sign of trustworthiness and dependability. We sometimes make promises to our kids that we can’t keep, or that we forget to fulfill. Be careful: children have incredible memories! If we want them to understand the value of a kept promise, we must keep ours, too!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Here’s a couple of ideas for “building responsibility.” Go to a bank with your child and let him open an account. Bank accounts can be started with a very small amount of money. Ask the banker to explain to your child the value of saving for the future. Whenever possible, encourage your child to put small amounts in the account. Even coins will make a difference! Saving money is a great way to teach responsibility and dependability. Perhaps you can let your child pick an item that he can save for. It will be a great incentive! Or, if you haven’t already done so, let your child get his own library card. It will boost your child’s self-esteem if he knows the card is his own responsibility, and that he can choose what to borrow with it.

RESOURCES


FAMILY PLEDGE CARD

Our family has completed the Family Page together.

______________________________
Child's name

Family members:

______________________    ___________________
______________________    ___________________

School: ___________________________________

Teacher/grade: ___________________________

For more information about Project: Solution, call 726-8918 or 1-800-351-1227, ext. 8033 or 8918.