



**RESPONSIBILITY**

# BUILDING CHARACTER

OCTOBER

During an interview, the employer said to the applicant, "In this particular job, it's very important that we hire someone who is responsible." The applicant replied, "Then I'm the one you want. In my last job, every time something went wrong, they said I was responsible!" Well, none of us wants our children to grow up to be like this unfortunate job applicant. This is why we start teaching our children at a very young age the importance of responsibility. Hopefully, this month's newsletter will give you some new thoughts on teaching this valuable trait in your home.

## RESPONSIBILITY AT HOME

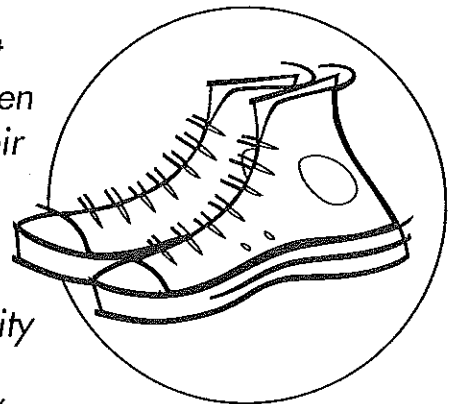
1. Establish a "Work Then Play" household rule.
2. Be a role model. Let your children see you being accountable, organized, prepared, and on time.
3. Volunteer together. "Community service increases social responsibility and a sense of personal competence," according to John Rutledge, 4-H youth development specialist of family, youth, and community sciences.
4. Use a shopping trip as a way to teach a lesson in financial responsibility. Bring along a calculator and have your child add up his/her desired items. How much allowance money would it take to make his purchase? The goal is to help your child appreciate the cost of food and the value of a dollar.
5. Create an action plan for ways your family can be more environmentally responsible. For example: recycle more, turn off lights, limit water consumption, carpool, etc.



Allow your children to make choices, and let them know that they must accept the outcomes. From an early age, expect them to make regular, tangible contributions to the family. That means chores they don't get paid for. And it means letting your children take responsibility for their own actions.

from *Parenting 101* by John Rosemond

*"If you want your children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders."*



Abigail Van Buren

BUILDING CHARACTER...THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

