



# Being Responsible

We all want our children to grow up to be responsible adults.

We want them to feel, think, and act with respect for themselves and for others. To do this, children need lots of help from parents.

**L**earning to be responsible includes learning to:

- show respect and compassion
- practice honesty
- stand up for what we believe
- develop self-control
- maintain self-respect

**H**ere are some things you can do at home:

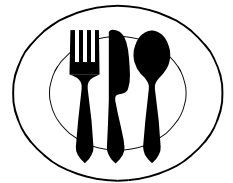
- Share your moral and religious values with them.
- Show compassion and concern when others are suffering.
- Read stories together that teach lessons: *the courage of David standing up to Goliath in the Bible, or the value of persistence from "The Little Engine That Could."*
- Help children understand how the choices they make will affect them and others.



## Honesty, the Best Policy

☞ Tell the story about the boy who cried "Wolf!" which can be found in most books about fables.

☞ Ask your children if anyone had ever lied to them. How did that make them feel? How did they feel if the person found out? What happened when they found out?



☞ When you make a promise to your children, try to keep it. It may seem small to you, but it means a lot to them.

## Helping Out

☞ Think of added ways they can help at home.

☞ Praise a job well done, especially a new challenge.

## Getting to Know Others

☞ Set a good example, act with respect toward others.

☞ Always make clear that prejudice is wrong; and that all of us are equal, no matter if we have different color, gender, or disability.

☞ Encourage your child to see things from others point of view. There is always more than one way to look at a situation.

Information was taken from "Helping Your Child Learn Responsible Behavior." United States Dept. Of Education, Family Involvement Partnership for Learning.



**The Center for Parent Involvement** (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at [www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi](http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi). The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Parent Support Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #1: Being Responsible.

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