

*"character goes the distance"*

## THE CHARACTER SERIES



### re·spon·si·bil·i·ty

*noun. The state of being accountable for something. The opportunity or ability to act independently.*

LEARNING RESPONSIBILITY is, more than anything, about creating opportunities for a child to see what the trait looks like, feels like, and sounds like in real life. It's about a mindset or approach as a parent (or teacher), and how you extend and build opportunities for a child to learn and grow in age-appropriate ways. Sharing responsibility around your home, particularly as we are all navigating a new normal that includes a lot of extra time together, can both help your home run more smoothly and give your child valuable experience in learning responsibility.

As such, this week, there are fewer activities and more resources. These resources are quick reads that accentuate the ways a home (or classroom) can be structured to allow children the chance to take responsibility, and therefore, shape their view of what they can and should do. Children want to be seen as capable and need practice to build this trait. The resource section this week is full of valuable insight.



### ACTIVITIES

**We would love to see how you do these with your family!**

*Tag us on Facebook or Twitter @characterplus*

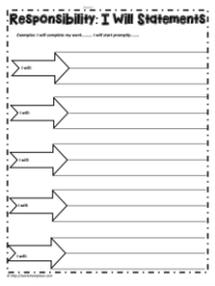
#### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY VIDEO AND DISCUSSION (All ages)**

Social responsibility is the idea that we as a society need to take care of each other, and that our actions should benefit, and not harm, the greater good. Showing kids our collective current physical isolation, and the sacrifices it requires, is a way to demonstrate social responsibility and may help them understand its importance...that it takes all of us, working together. The insurance company [Liberty Mutual created a beautiful short film](#) about a town and its lighthouse, and it illustrates this point! Watch with your kids, and discuss what it means to us right now.

#### **WHAT WOULD YOU DO? CARD GAME (Middle School)**

[This set of cards with moral dilemmas](#) presents a great opportunity for discussion with older students about how they reason through a decision, and ultimately, to whom they are responsible for answering. Print and cut them out, and leave them on your table for discussion at mealtime. (No need to do them all at once!) Here's an example of the questions: "After eating a family dinner at an expensive restaurant, your parents ask you to make sure that the bill is correct. You discover that the waiter has undercharged your parents by \$15. What do you do? Why?"

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## RESPONSIBILITY PLANNER (Elementary)

We have heard from so many parents about the struggle to keep school work straight. A skill your child has very likely been developing in the classroom is taking responsibility for planning what work needs to be completed. Help them learn to outline the day's work on their own and take responsibility for what they should be finishing during the day.

[Here's a page](#) that can be printed and used at home for planning, and adapted for older students, as well!

## ONLINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (Elementary)

We often call online responsibility "digital citizenship" in schools. Even if your kids are too young to have their own social media accounts, they are NOT too young to start learning about their responsibility online! Common Sense Education created a very short cartoon to help young children understand the difference between public and personal information, and what they should and should not share on social media. [Take a look at this short video with your kids.](#)



## RESOURCES

[15 Tips to Raise a Responsible Child from Aha!Parenting.com](#)

(excellent examples of ways to build this into your everyday)

[4 Activities to Teach Responsibility in Preschoolers](#)

(this HiMama Early Childhood Education post offers concrete examples of how building responsibility starts in preschool!)

[The Center for Parenting Education: Teaching Responsibility to Your Children](#)

(clear explanations of obedience vs. responsibility, and your dual role as a parent or caregiver)

[Top 21 Kids Websites to Teach Responsibility and Life Skills](#)

(Lifehack and Common Sense Media vetted the sites for safety, and the list includes websites for kids of all ages).

[Teaching Kids How to Use Social Media Responsibly](#)

(this post from For the Love of Teachers has helpful tips to guide parents, teachers and students)

*a world where positive character is universal*

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