

BNICETM
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UNIVERSITY

LESSON PLANS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

HOW TO BE RESPONSIBLE

Be reliable and dependable; when you agree to do something, do it.

Take care of your own business. Don't make others do what you are supposed to do.

Take responsibility for your actions; don't make excuses or blame others.

Use your head; think before you act; imagine the consequences.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

1. At the top of this page are some behavioral guidelines for how to be a responsible person. Write these guidelines on the board. Have the children think of as many examples of each as they can, and write them on the board. Can they think of any other responsible behaviors that should be added to the list? Have a class discussion about these behaviors. Have the children make posters of these behaviors to put up around the school.
2. Take the examples from activity #1, above, and turn them into role-playing situations. The kids can act them out themselves or use puppets. First, have them role-play the irresponsible behavior, and then, the responsible behavior. Have the group critique each of the role-plays.
3. Put your students through some imagination exercises by setting up pretend situations in which they have to make choices. Have them close their eyes while imagining themselves in a situation you describe. Make sure it requires them to make choices that are either responsible or irresponsible. Have them test different choices and describe in detail the consequences of those choices. The more detailed their descriptions, the more real the experience will feel to them, and the more they will understand the consequences of their imagined actions. (Afterwards you might tell them how Albert Einstein used this technique to create all kinds of theories in math and physics.)
4. For the upper grades: Have your students look for magazine or newspaper articles in which responsibility is an issue. Discuss these issues in the context of responsible and irresponsible actions. What are the stakes? What are the consequences?



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WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. How responsible are you? For each of the responsible behaviors listed at the start of this lesson, rate yourself on a scale from one to five (1=awful, and 5=terrific). For each of these behaviors, give an example of how you are either responsible or not, and what you could do to improve.
2. Can you think of a time you did something really irresponsible? Describe it in detail. Why did it happen? How did you feel about it at the time? Did it affect anybody else? Did it cause any problems for you? How do you feel about it now? What did you learn from it? Or, perhaps you would prefer to write about something you did that was very responsible.
3. Have your students write about how characters in movies or television programs they have seen act in either a responsible or irresponsible way. If your children are too young to write book reports, do this as a class discussion about the books they are reading or that you are reading to them.
4. Write about someone you think is very responsible. What do you like about that person?
5. Write about how it makes you feel when somebody lets you down.



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Dear Parent,

Your child is involved in our character education program entitled B.N.U. (BNICE University). Our current focus is RESPONSIBILITY, which teaches children lessons about responsible and irresponsible behavior while showing how being a responsible person leads to good friendships and positive interpersonal relationships.

Here are some things you can do to reinforce the message of this value.

- Ask your child to tell you about being responsible and what he or she learned from it.
- Ask your child to show you the page entitled "How to be a Responsible Person." Discuss the guidelines for responsible behavior on this page. Perhaps post them in a place where you child will see them often.
- Have a discussion about responsibility in the family. What are your child's responsibilities (other than chores), and what are your responsibilities? Perhaps make a chart. What happens if you or your child are irresponsible? How does taking responsibility make your home a happier place to be?
- Catch your child being responsible. Make sure your child knows he or she has just done something good. Expressing your approval is a powerful way to reinforce good behavior.
- Remember, your child is watching what you do. Be sure to model the kind of responsible behavior you want your child to adopt.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

- Abraham Lincoln

"If you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams."

- Les Brown

