



Responsibility

Our mission statement here at CCS is: Glorifying God by assisting parents, providing a Christ-centered, academically excellent education, edifying the whole child, resulting in Godly leadership through service.

We work hard to fulfill our mission statement. We seek to have Christ central in everything that we do by training students to put God first in their lives. We seek to provide challenging academic curricula that will prepare students for service in whatever field God calls them to. We seek to provide training in the arts, both in creating and in appreciation, using God given gifts. We seek to build up physical bodies and sense of sportsmanship through physical education. We seek to impress on them the knowledge that service to others is a vital part of the Christian walk – James 2:1. All the while, we recognize that we have an awesome responsibility, both to parents and to God in what we teach these precious children.

A vital part of fulfilling our mission statement is helping children become responsible. Webster's Dictionary defines responsibility as "the quality or state of being responsible." It then defines 'responsible' as "able to answer for one's conduct and obligations" with the synonym of TRUSTWORTHY. Therefore, responsibility is being

responsible and being able to answer for, or complete, one's obligations. So, how do we do that? Step by step, year by year.

Developing responsibility is not easy, especially today. We are living in a society that does not value responsibility. Look at the celebrities, the sports figures, the politicians that are in the news these days. They are certainly not celebrated for living responsible, well reasoned, God-fearing lives. It seems the more out of control the celebrity lives are, the more they are celebrated. We certainly don't want our children to be like those celebrities!

So, what do we do to develop responsibility? Well, it begins with little children and it begins at home. If the attitude at home is one of Biblical service – putting God first, others second, self last-then children will see that attitude modeled by parents. If the expectation is that everyone in the family helps each other, no matter how old they are, then the children will learn to be helpful, and therefore, responsible. Children learn very quickly what is important to the adults around them, and most of the time they want to be like mom and dad. So, mom and dad need to model, expect, and teach responsibility.

Children need to have chores that are appropriate for their age. Even very

young children can learn to put up their toys. Having a low basket or box will help (come on, honey, let's put your toys up before we have a snack). Preschool children can help feed pets, put their dirty clothes in a laundry basket, put plastic dishes on the table, help with dusting, and help with bringing in groceries and putting up the food. Younger school age children can learn to sweep and vacuum, fold and put up their laundry, and take out the trash. Preteens can learn to wash their clothes and help fix meals, while teenagers can handle pretty much any of the chores it takes to run a home.

Children who have been given responsibility at home are much more likely to fulfill responsibilities at school. Students have the responsibility of coming to school prepared to learn. That means remembering to bring needed books, to bring in completed projects, to bring in the library book that is due today, to turn in the homework completed last night. There are lots of details involved in school. For a young child, learning to always put library books and homework into his book bag when he is finished is learning to be responsible. Remembering to put homework folders into the basket inside the classroom door is being responsible. For older students, writing down the work in her planner and taking home the necessary books is being



responsible. It is a process, building little by little onto previous learning.

One of the hardest jobs for parents as I see it, is learning to let their children face up to responsibility at school. It is so tempting for parents to bail their children out. But that is counterproductive to teaching responsibility. If a child forgets his lunch in the car, it is tempting to bring it to school. But if he forgets his lunch and has to pay for the peanut butter sandwich with his own money, next time he will be less likely to forget the lunch! If a child forgets to bring

a library book and has to pay the fine herself, next time she is more likely to remember the book. A child who doesn't turn in a project on time and sees what the late penalty does to the final grade will be more careful to turn in things on time.

There are occasionally times when a teacher will ask a parent to bring something that has been forgotten to school, but that should be a rarity.

There are many books available to help parents develop responsibility in their children. There are many, many sites

(8,000,000!) on the internet discussing children and responsibility, with 228,000 more that have information about various charts to use. Obviously, this is seen as an important topic by lots of people. The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6 to "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Training up responsible children will lead to responsible adults, bringing blessing to Godly parents, to the school, and most importantly, to the Lord.

~ Lynn Jerguson

Cherokee Christian Schools • www.cherokeechristian.org



Cherokee Christian Schools, Inc. • 3075 Trickum Road • Woodstock, GA 30188 • 678-494-KING

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