

# Five ways chores can help your child become more responsible

It's a fact: Responsible children do better in school. And they grow up to become productive, responsible adults.

One of the most effective ways to help children develop responsibility is through chores. Chores help your child:

1. Do better in school. Learning how to follow directions and complete chores correctly gives your child practice for following directions when taking tests.
2. Feel like he is needed. Let's face it—this is something everyone needs. So be sure to recognize your child's contribution. "Juan unloaded the dishwasher this afternoon, so cleaning up after dinner tonight will be much faster!"
3. Feel a sense of investment. A child who has swept the floor is less likely to track in mud from outdoors.
4. Take pride in his work. This feeling of satisfaction can carry over to times when he faces a daunting task for school, like finishing a long-term project.
5. Learn basic life skills. Before your child leaves home, he should know things like how to prepare simple meals, care for his clothes and take out the garbage. The sooner he learns these lessons, the more prepared he will be for the future.

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