Responsibility is linked to your child's school success

Educators agree that responsible children do better in school. Luckily, parents have endless opportunities to foster responsibility.

To boost your child's responsibility:

- Enforce a few age-appropriate rules and consequences. State them clearly so your child knows exactly how you expect her to behave—and what will happen if she doesn't.
- Trust her with meaningful tasks. School-age children are capable of handling responsibilities such as picking up their rooms, setting the table and helping with the laundry.
- Talk about financial responsibility. Many kids receive an allowance. This provides a great opportunity to teach about budgeting, spending, saving and giving.
- Let your child make decisions, such as which homework assignment to tackle first. Having the responsibility of making decisions builds confidence.
- Find ways to help others. Discuss what it means to be a responsible member of a community. Talk about different ways your family can contribute, such as by donating gently-used clothing to a charity or volunteering your time for an important cause.
- Adjust rules and responsibilities. As your child matures, her abilities will change. Perhaps she can take on more grown-up chores. Or perhaps she can make new and exciting decisions. Talk about how great it feels to be responsible!