

Use simple strategies to develop your child's responsibility

Young children are still learning how to be responsible students. So they sometimes forget their books, their homework and even their lunches.

It's tempting to keep track of your child's things for him. But this won't help him in the long run. His success in school depends on his ability to take responsibility for himself and his belongings.

Here are ways to help him become more responsible:

- Write down what you expect your child to do. Post lists of his responsibilities, weekly chores, and items he needs for school.
- Ask your child to check off tasks when he completes them. He can put a question mark next to a task if he needs your help.
- Help your child figure out where to store his things when he's not using them.
- Set a good example. Have a designated spot for your keys and wallet. Check your calendar to prepare for the next day.
- Show your child how to keep track of activities and assignments on his own weekly calendar.
- Let your child experience the consequences of forgetting. Don't bring his homework to school if he forgets it.
- Let your child experience the consequences of losing an item. If he can't find his library book, expect him to pay the fine.
- Praise your child when he demonstrates responsibility and does what he's supposed to do.

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