TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY AT YOUNG AGE

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Responsibility seems to be one of the hardest lessons to teach in children. It comes in various ways; from simple fixing their beddings, fixing their toys in proper places, preparing them for school such as taking a bath and dressing up. In school, teaching responsibility is a difficult task for teachers especially in lower grades.

According to Jean Illsley Clark in her book, How Much Is Enough? there are three basic ways that parents over-indulge their children:

1. Giving Too Many Things which means giving children too many material things or too many activities without the expectation that they will fulfill obligations.
2. Doing Too Much which means doing things for children that they are able to do for themselves.
3. Not Expecting Enough or demanding enough of children. This has to do with parents not requiring their children to meet their obligations or the parent’s expectations, or to face the consequences of their actions.

Alona Friedman introduce a simpler yet expert advice for raising responsible children in her work “9 Tips for Teaching Kids Responsibility:

1. Start Young
2. Let Them Help You
3. Show Kids the Way
4. Model Responsibility
5. Praise Them
6. Manage Your Expectations
7. Avoid Rewards
8. Provide Structure and Routine
9. Teach Consequences

It is a great task for teachers to train responsible children because it is one virtue that leads individual towards success. Thus, it is also a great task for teachers to ask parents’ help in teaching responsibility to their children. It is therefore important to effectively introduce “responsibility” at younger age and it is not an easy task. Therefore, children can be taught from very simple things to a more complex one.

More often, sense of responsibility originates at home which starts from a very simple task of taking care of oneself. And as they grow older, greater responsibility are assigned. In schools, children were taught responsibility in simply meeting deadlines, doing homework, studying/ reviewing lessons and even classroom chores. It is also accompanied in practicing leadership.

Therefore, development of sense of responsibility at younger age lies in the hands of both parents and the teachers. It is a two-way task. Children should do the activity, parents and teachers would only assist.

References:
