THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING ACCOUNTABILITY

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You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. - Abraham Lincoln

Accountability is accepting responsibility for one's action. It gives a person a feeling of self-satisfaction and worth. A person who practices accountability is dependable, driven and trustworthy—traits which are often attributed to a progress-oriented and decent human being. These are some of the ways we, as educators, can enrich our students’ sense of accountability.

By helping our students deal with mistakes. A child learns accountability when he accepts that mistakes are part of the learning process and starts owning up to them. We can teach them to treat a mistake as an opportunity to learn through experience.

By clearly defining our learners' responsibilities in the classroom. This goes beyond the usual schoolwork and includes their obligation to follow the standards of behavior. Painting a clear picture of our expectation can help them become more willing to accept it and the consequences if they fail to follow.

By setting reasonable consequences for every error our students commit. Being fair in dealing with mistakes strengthens their trust in our judgment. Furthermore, it makes it easier for them to accept the result of their actions.

By showing unconditional trust in our students' capabilities. It is important that we believe in their skills even through errors they may have made in the past. This can help instill in them a sense of pride and desire to be responsible in everything they do.
By practicing what you preach. We can be the person that we want our students to be by being the role model that they can follow. Let us start by owning up to our mistakes, accepting the consequences of our actions, and saying sorry if we must. Practicing accountability is not always easy, but it is right.

References:

http://www.teachersessay.com/teachers-accountability/