

Parent's Forum

3rd and 4th Grade

The Roots of Responsibility “It's Not About Achievement”

Responsibility:

Depending on the context there are two definitions of “responsibility”

1. Assigned Duty – a job or task

Example: “Setting the table for dinner is my responsibility.”

2. Accountability of one's behavior

Example: “I accept responsibility for having forgotten to set the table for dinner.”

Parenting:

Parents are role models, teachers, guidance counselors, medics, gurus. They act as a consultant on their children's growth and development.

1. They are authority figures that are relaxed and create a relaxed atmosphere
2. They guide and model more than “directing”
3. Their goal is to make a child resourceful and responsible
4. They do not take credit for their child's behavior
5. They allow their children to make mistakes and learn from these mistakes

All of these communicate a message of trust and personal worth to the child.

Methods:

Be a model – don't ask your child to do something you are not able or willing to do.

1. Stand back and allow your child to struggle to solve the problem
2. Be a leader and a follower
3. If he has the “potential” Allow him to discover what that is
4. Communicate – Compel - Confirm

Skills:

“Parents should never agonize over anything children do or fail to do if those children are perfectly capable of agonizing over it themselves.”

1. Children need chores around the house
2. School work is his work
3. Teach your child how to be his own advocate
4. Everyone sits on the sidelines sometimes