

Article #36

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 82% report that they experience the asset *Responsibility*.

Asset #30: Responsibility-Parent(s) tell the child it is important to accept personal responsibility for behavior.

Consider this . . .

Responsibility is a learned behavior. If young people are not expected to take on certain roles and responsibilities, they will have no opportunities to develop this value.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Invite young people to take on responsibilities in your home, school, congregation, or community. Give them the support they need and hold them accountable.
- If a young person makes a mistake or doesn't follow through on a commitment, resist the temptation to ignore the situation or to punish the youth. Instead, work together to deal with the consequences and help the young person make amends. Then move on and don't dwell on what happened.
- When young people take on new responsibilities, make sure that they know that it is okay to ask for help. If they ask for help, make sure they get it.
- Recognize that sometimes the unexpected happens and responsibilities change. Be flexible and help young people see how their roles change in changing situations.
- Hire young people. Give them clear expectations and reward jobs well done.

Youth:

- Encourage adults to let you try new things and take on new responsibilities.
- When you accept responsibility for a job or a task, do your very best. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask for help. Being responsible doesn't necessarily mean doing everything yourself.
- If you're not sure what someone is expecting of you, ask for clarification.

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