

Seven Habits of Highly Responsible Students

1. They set goals. Goals keep kids focused on the future. They are the foundation of responsible behavior and success in school. Help your child set goals. Ask:
 - How much improvement would you like to see on this week's test?
 - How would you like to improve your grades this period?
 - What are two things you would like to accomplish this year?
 - What will be needed to meet your goals? How can I help?

Students with goals find it easier to say *no* to irresponsible behaviors, because they are saying *yes* to their vision of the future.

2. They plan their time. Responsible people meet their obligations. Help organize time with calendars and schedules. Write down all his commitments and keep the important ones. Model the behavior by planning your family time. Plan in something fun and special and say no to distractions that rob your student and family, such as too much TV, cell phone and internet usage.
3. They study every day. Learning any new material is like building a brick wall, one step at a time, steadily building. Set time aside to finish work and review fundamentals. Add to your vocabulary with new words as a family. Promise 10 minutes outside of school to read for pleasure.
4. They take notes in class. Students with A's have one thing in common—they take notes in class. Many recopy them as a review. The next day they ask for more explanation of anything they don't understand. They find a way of organizing their notes that make them useful and easy to carry for review at any time.
5. They have the tools they need. A carpenter wouldn't think of showing up without a hammer. A nurse always has a stethoscope. Some students think they can go to class without pencils, papers, books.
6. They keep their commitments. Responsible people honor their promises—to others and to themselves. They succeed by doing assignments to their best and on time. They do their share of a group project. They don't whine and make excuses, because something new is always hard before it is easy. Ask your child to make commitments at home with chores and duties. Satisfaction and responsibility will come from meeting these commitments.
7. They get ready ahead of time. Some start out every morning in a crisis. They can't find their homework. They don't have time for breakfast. The shirt they want isn't clean. Responsible students learn that being late or early is not something that simply happens to them. It is a choice they can make. Teach your child to take 5-10 minutes before bedtime to get ready for the next day. Make lunch, lay out clothes and pack the backpack.

"None of the secrets of success will work unless you do them."

Ralph Waldo Emerson