



Family Life Education

Twelve Ways to Raise a Responsible Child

The following advice is guaranteed to produce a child who is responsible - who has the potential of becoming a significant contributor to their family, community and society.

1. Avoid rescuing your children for their poor behavior.
2. Teach your children financial responsibility.
3. Hold your children accountable – if they get a ticket; let them pay for the ticket and any additional insurance premiums.
4. Provide your children with opportunities to learn the life skills they will need to problem-solve on their own.
5. Treat your children the way you want them to treat you, with respect.
6. Teach them to clean up after themselves.
7. Teach your children how to provide for themselves – how to do their own laundry, fix their own breakfast, and eventually prepare meals when you can't be there.
8. Be a good listener, but don't allow your children to take all their frustrations out on you or their siblings.
9. Teach your children to take responsibility for their own behavior. If they forget their homework, let them pay the consequences. If they are late for school or work, let them explain why to their teacher or supervisor.
10. Stay out of their school work. Let them get their A's by themselves.
11. Do teach them a belief system; let them know what your values and expectations are.
12. Love your children unconditionally and let them know you love them. Use encouragement and affirmations to get the behaviors you want from them.