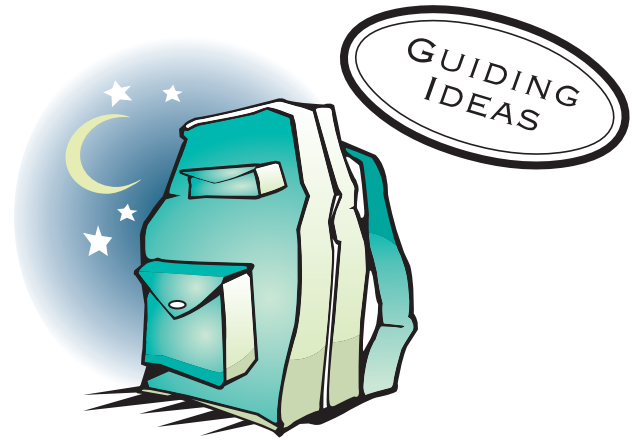


Responsibility Improves With Practice

A child who learns and accepts responsibility will do better in school and grow up to be a productive, responsible adult. It would be nice if learning responsibility happened overnight. But it's a work in progress—and it takes practice.

Here are some things you can do to let your child practice responsible habits every day:

- **Give your child an alarm clock.** Expect her to get herself ready for school in the morning.
- **Establish a regular homework time.** This will make it easier for your child to be responsible for her schoolwork.
- **Have a set place by the front door** where she can place her backpack every night—ready to go with everything she needs for school the next day. Have her pack her lunch at night too.



Don't expect perfection. Remember that mistakes happen to everyone. Allow your child to experience the consequences of her mistakes—and she will learn important lessons about responsibility. If you're always running to her rescue, she'll only learn that she doesn't have to take responsibility for anything.

Remember that it's just as important to reward responsible behavior as it is to comment on mistakes.