



## Character Counts! ®- Responsibility 2021 Leader's Guide

Written by Faye Spencer, KAFCE State Vice President  
Supplement to NAFCE's booklet Character Counts! ®- Responsibility

Responsibility requires a person to recognize that one's actions or decisions matter; they are morally accountable for the consequences; a person is to do the right thing even when no one is looking or even when no credit or praise is forthcoming; and actions done will not harm others. A responsible person understands that they have the sole ability to have this trait that they will be a person whom others can trust and will count on to do the right thing.

Responsible people will:

Take care of themselves as well as others; Plan and set goals; Set a good example; Do more than just talk, they are doers; Do more than they are required to do; Exercise self-control; Do their duty; Be proactive; Choose positive attitudes; Keep their promises; and Be accountable.

What you say and do can be a chain reaction that affects others. Common excuses people give when *avoiding* responsibility:

*"That's just the way I am."* You are whatever you choose to be.

*"It's not my fault."* Responsibility is not about blame, it is accountability.

*"It's not my job."* Your moral duties often go beyond specific job responsibilities.

Irresponsibility can ruin marriages, friendships, and cost loss of employment. Do you know of people who are habitually late, miss deadlines, forget to return phone calls, don't answer letters, don't acknowledge invitations or fail to pay back money? Some irresponsible people are charming yet don't recognize their own negative behavior. Others use irresponsibility as a weapon, an expression of anger or hostility, by not doing what is expected or requested as a method of saying no. Irresponsible people are masters of evasion.

### **QUOTES:**

“Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.” -John Homer Miller

“In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have.... Is the ability to take on responsibility,” Michael Korda, an English-born writer and novelist who was editor-in-chief of Simon & Schuster in New York City.

“I am responsible for doing the work I need to do today even though it may be hard.”  
Helen Keller.

“Responsibility isn’t some dull virtue. It separates winners from losers, happy people from unhappy.” Linda Barbanel, New York psychotherapist.

## ACTIVITIES

- Responsibility Life Recipe: 3 dashes of helpfulness, 2 c. respect, 6 tsp. involvement Continue writing this recipe for responsibility. List the ingredients (traits that a responsible person would have, such as attitudes, values, and qualities; consider what things you should be responsible for). After you have written the ingredients, write the ‘procedure’ of how to be responsible using these ingredients. Make your procedure so that anyone could read it and understand how they can be more responsible. Your procedure must be detailed and organized as any good paragraph would be. Think of words that recipes use like mix, blend, and add.
- Scavenger Hunt Give teams either an organized purse or backpack or a messy purse or backpack and a list of items to locate. Set a timer. Who completed the list first, the organized or messy team? How much longer did it take for the messy team to finish? Discuss the consequences of a irresponsibly, messy backpack could have, how much time one could have for other activities instead of wasting time searching for “lost/misplaced” items.
- Whose Job Is It? Responsibility Lesson Plan: Help students understand what responsibilities are theirs, versus the parents and versus the teachers. On a poster/chart, list a duty and who is responsible-teacher, student or parents. Duty Examples: Being at school every day on time, Students learning reading and math skills, Students following the rules/directions, Homework being completed, Making sure class is a positive place to learn, Treating others how you want to be treated. Students discuss how a teacher, parent or student will achieve that duty.

There are many other group and classroom activities that are instructional on the subject of responsibility. If you are a “pinner”, just follow me on Pinterest (faye.spencer520) of my board Character Counts! Responsibility.

## POETRY

### **Responsibility** by Amber Rose

Something I'm learning, something that I know is true  
The only person responsible for your actions is you.  
What goes around, comes around, as you may have heard.  
You give and take, you receive what you deserve.  
As much as I may not want to admit, this mess that I'm in, I got myself into it.  
What I've done, I've done a couple of times.  
They say you live and learn, well why didn't I?  
So I'm dealing with the pain, and taking on the ache  
I have to lie in the bed I didn't mean to make, so instead of looking up 2 heaven and asking god  
4 help  
I'll take a look in the mirror, a good look at myself.  
I have to realize and accept what I've done wrong, learning lessons is tough but not if your  
strong.