




## RESPONSIBILITY

### “The Super Shoot-for-the-Stars Space Ship”

#### Understanding Responsibility from Your Child’s Point of View:

In “The Super Shoot-for-the-Stars Space Ship,” the friends want to buy a Super Shoot-for-the-Stars Space Ship for their treehouse. They decide to have a lemonade sale to raise money. Bubba borrows a glass pitcher from Mr. Quigley for the lemonade. When the pitcher is broken, the friends have to decide on the responsible thing to do. They try to fix the pitcher with glue, with funny results. They decide to buy Mr. Quigley a new pitcher, instead of buying a space ship. Danny is trusted by his mother to deliver an important letter to Molly the mail carrier while Trundle is trusted by Mr. Quigley to deliver a bowl of soup to Dexter, who is sick in bed.

When we are responsible, we live up to the trust that others put on us. We show we have the ability to act without direct supervision or guidance from others. We are dependable and trustworthy. Here are some things to consider in teaching your child about responsibility.

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**3 & 4 year-olds** may be able to repeat what the rules are, but they are very likely to be unable to deny their strong inner impulses. Converting the “knowing” into “doing” what is expected is too difficult at this age. Their short attention spans may mean that they begin projects, but they may be unable to finish a complex task. Parents can set good examples for responsibility by carrying out chores and taking care of things along with their young children. Talk with your children about each step of the work you do together. They will see you, help you, and hear you describe what is meant by being responsible.
  
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**5 & 6 year-olds** may still have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy. They are not detached thinkers; they cannot think about thinking. They use and understand language only in concrete terms. They will take people’s comments or directions literally. Youngsters this age like to help and can take limited responsibility. For example, they may be allowed to do simple tasks in the home or be responsible for staying within their own yard. Parents can encourage responsibility by assigning children several tasks to carry out each day, such as putting toys away, feeding their pet, or taking out the trash.
  
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**7 & 9 year-olds** are becoming more able to follow through, but their attention span may still be short and they may still become easily distracted from finishing a task. Children might exaggerate or suggest that something happened (such as finishing the job!) when in fact it did not happen exactly the way they described. Parents can continue to model responsibility by demonstrating that people are responsible for the consequences of their choices. Our actions can affect others. Sometimes youngsters need to learn through the consequences of irresponsibility. Positive discipline will allow children to experience the logical results of their action or inaction. Keep in mind that childish irresponsibility may be due to fatigue or hunger, rather than willful disobedience.

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#### Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: “What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?” Then, watch how the program ends.

After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Ask your children to share what they thought about the story. Which character was their favorite? Which character was most like them? In what ways?
- 2 Help the children cook a batch of homemade vegetable soup. Each family member can help clean and cut up a variety of vegetables for the soup. Add the vegetables to chicken, beef, or tomato broth. Enjoy the results that happen when each one makes a contribution.
- 3 Create a household chore chart, with a daily assignment for each family member: take trash outdoors, make bed, feed pets, wash the dishes, dry the dishes, vacuum the rug. During a family meeting, make a fantastic, imaginative story of what might happen if everyone in the family stopped doing their chores.
- 4 Have a family time where you talk about the importance of responsibility. Find a broken object, such as a ceramic pitcher or a mechanical alarm clock, and try to put it back together. Children will experience the difficulty of trying to repair items.
- 5 Learn and sing together one of the songs from “The Super Shoot-for-the-Stars Space Ship.”



#### Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: [www.quigleysvillage.net](http://www.quigleysvillage.net)