

Guideline 12 : Responsibility



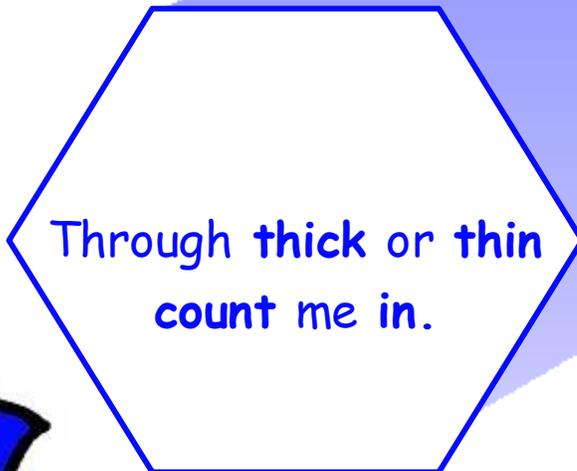
Humility
Patience
Contentment
Delight
Kindness
Honesty
Generosity
Thoughtful Speech
16 Guidelines for Life www.16Guidelines.org

Respect
Forgiveness
Gratitude
▶ Responsibility 12
Principles
Aspiration
Service
Courage

Character Guide: Riche Responsibility



The guides' positive chants help you to remember the most important ideas. Say these over and over to remember them.



When we talk about being “Responsible” to loved ones and friends, we use words like steadfast, dependable, reliable, and constant. Some also use “Loyalty” to describe being responsible with those who are close. This practice can help us to extend our responsibility out to everyone.

Response Ability



a twelve measure call and response rhythmic chant
to be clapped/snapped slowly and evenly emphasizing **blue** downbeats

Caller:

Crowd or Responder:

1 **Do** I need some **help**
when **things** are going **right**?

No!

2 **Do** I need some **help**
in the **dark** of the **night**?

Yes!

3 **When** will you be **ready**
to **step** on **in**?

4

Through **thick** or **thin**,
count me **in**!

5 **Leaned** on, **called** on,
trusted and **relied** upon?

6

Through **thick** or **thin**,
count me **in**!

7 **Steppin'** in, **steppin'** out,
steppin' up without a doubt?

8

Through **thick** or **thin**,
count me **in**!

9 I've **got** a friend I **see**! --

You **can** depend on **me**! --

10 And **I** will be there **too**! --

When **someone** else needs **you**!--

11 **Take** it on, **bring** it on,
it's **time** to **begin**, so...

12

All: Through **thick** or **thin**,
count us **in**! --



Responsibility Activities



Try it now: Connections

You are interconnected. You share roads, schools, shops, air, playgrounds, a planet and more. What you do -- or don't do -- affects others. Like a tower of blocks or a pile of sticks, it is hard to affect one and not the others. You are interdependent. You depend on others and they on you. The following activities investigating interconnection may help you see the importance of putting effort into being strong and reliable.



Only as strong as its weakest link...

Game:

Homemade pick-up-sticks

Get 20 chopsticks, skewers, straws, pencils, sticks or pine needles -- all the same size and shape, straight, stiff, and the length of a chopstick. Hold the sticks loosely in a bundle with one end just above a flat surface and the other end straight up. Release them so they fall in all directions. Pick up one at a time -- without moving the others, or then it's the next person's turn. Try to get the most sticks. You can make some sticks worth more by marking them with a stripe of paint. This can be a cooperative game if you work together to pick up all the sticks in the fewest turns.



Experiment:

'Floatilla'

Play with objects floating in water to see if you can move one and not the others -- leaves in a pond, berries in a bowl, or marshmallows in a sink. It is amazing how far away you can be and still affect the other objects. We are all connected.

Art Project:



The dashed path

In the cartoon [Family Circus](#) a dashed line marks a child's path. Imagine you left a trail of your connection to others in a typical day. Draw where you go, who you see, and who you talk to on the phone or computer. Dash your route from morning 'til night, showing who you might affect. What does your web of connectedness look like?



Try it now: What does it all mean?

Many words have meanings similar to 'responsible'.

Word Play: Unscramble Responsibly

Unscramble these letters to spell words with meanings similar to 'responsible'.
(Clue: first and last letters are in the right place.)

DEANEPLDBE RABELLE SFEDATAST

TWUSTROTHRY LAYOL

The answers are on the Instant Replay page at the end of this section.



Try it now: Don't take my word for it, either!

Six quotes on Responsibility from around the world have been cut in half. There are several difficulty levels to choose from as you match them back up. If you make it to Level 3 or up please send us an email at the link at the bottom left of this page. The answers are on the Instant Replay page.

Puzzle/Game:

Matches on the 2nd Level

Print out the following page on card weight paper, or print then glue to thicker paper. Cut into twelve cards along the lines. Reunite the two halves of the quotes.

Level 1: Lay all cards out face up, and match them as a group effort.

Level 2: Turn all cards face down and take turns turning over two at a time looking for a match. Play until all sets are matched.

Level 3: Extend the game by adding cards from the two other sections with quote matchups (Generosity and Aspiration).

Level 4: Find or write quotes about Responsibility or other guidelines to make your own cards.

Level 5: Study the quotes and quiz each other by holding up the first halves and seeing who can remember the second halves.

Matches on the 2nd Level -- Gamecards



<p>G12 – 1</p> <p>It's the friends you can call up...</p>	<p>G12 – 2</p> <p>To live the full life, one must have the courage to bear the responsibility...</p>	<p>G12 – 3</p> <p>We must love friends for their sake...</p>
<p>G12 – 4</p> <p>It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot...</p>	<p>G12 – 5</p> <p>It is not enough to stare up the steps,...</p>	<p>G12 – 6</p> <p>Knowing is not enough; we must apply...</p>
<p>G12 – A</p> <p>...we must step up the stairs.</p> <p>-- Vaclav Havel, Czech Republic</p>	<p>G12 – B</p> <p>...dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities.</p> <p>-- Josiah Charles Stamp, UK</p>	<p>G12 – C</p> <p>...of the needs of others.</p> <p>-- Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma</p>
<p>G12 – D</p> <p>...at 4 a.m. that matter.</p> <p>-- Marlene Dietrich, Germany</p>	<p>G12 – E</p> <p>...rather than for our own.</p> <p>-- Charlotte Bronte, UK</p>	<p>G12 – F</p> <p>...Willing is not enough; we must do.</p> <p>-- Johann von Goethe, Germany</p>

Try it for real: The Message is 'You can count on me.'



How does it feel if someone breaks their promise to you? If a friend says she will bring water to the game but forgets, and you go thirsty, or if your cousin plans to meet you after school but goes to a movie instead, does it say anything about how they value you?

What message do you send to others with your actions? Does your behavior say, "You can count on me, I follow through," or "It may or may not get done, depending on how I feel at the time"? How do you feel if you don't show up when you promised to meet a friend? Have you sent the message, "You are not important enough for me to keep my promises to you"?



Promise/Observe:

I say it => I do it. Got the message?

Do you want your friends and family to feel they are valuable to you and that you can be counted on to follow through? For a week, can you focus on doing everything you say you're going to do? You may need to make a note of what you promise so you don't forget. Be reliable and open to taking on something new you feel is important.



Acting responsibly shows friends that your word has value and you can be trusted. They may respond by sharing more of their time and belongings.

This teaches the adults in your life that you are ready for the next level of being grown up. I tell my teenager, "You are teaching me how to parent you by how you act. You are telling me what you can handle."



**Promise:
Implied Responsibility**



For a day, as well as doing what you say you will, can you do all the implied things, like picking up after yourself and keeping up with school work? This will require organization and focus. You may find it helpful to make a list with boxes you can check off such as homework, exercise, playtime, instrument practice and household chores.

To become responsible, at first get the habit of doing what you specifically promise to do.

Then do what is implied by being a member of a family, team or group.

Then do what you are asked by those close to you.

Finally, you will see what needs to be done and step up to do it!



Opportunity:

Find new ways -- Step up

This week, look for ways to improve things for your friends and family. When you see a problem, do what you can to fix it. If a friend drops something, help pick it up. If someone is being teased, find safe ways to support them. Step up to take on challenges you see around you. What difference can you make in your local world?

A range of opportunities exists to 'step up' and be responsible. You could voluntarily sweep the walk when you see it needs it, spend time with a friend who is going through hard times, help start a sports program to keep children out of trouble, or ask for extra lessons if the group you lead at school is not being challenged. Please email to tell us what you did – even the small steps are great progress!

Try it for real: Don't Play Chameleon

Do you know what chameleons do? They can change colors to match their surroundings. My 11-year-old son calls people 'chameleons' who change who they are or how they act to look good in front of different people. How do you feel if you see someone change their views, stories or tone of voice depending on who they talk to? Is this okay sometimes?



Photo by Paul Shaffner

Observe:

Am I turning green?

This week watch yourself to see if you act differently when you are with old friends, a new group of friends, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, teachers, or someone you don't like. Which ways of acting differently are responsible, doing what is helpful, and which are being a 'chameleon', not being yourself, just so you blend in?

Experiment:

Red cabbage... no, purple, no green! red!

You need a red cabbage*, water, pan, stove, several cotton swabs (or a coffee filter**) and an adult to help you. Chop $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cabbage, put it in the pan, cover it with water, boil until the water turns deep purple. Let it cool, then drain off the juice. Dip both tips of the swabs (or the whole coffee filter) in the juice and let them dry. Dip the swabs (or strips of the coffee filter) in various safe liquids and notice what happens to the color. Try vinegar, a solution of baking soda ([sodium bicarbonate](#)) and water, and other liquids like orange or lemon juice, salt water, sugar water or milk. The colors should change as if by magic.

*you can use blueberries or red onions if no cabbage is available.

** you can use a paper towel or white tissue paper, but the filters and swabs work better.





What's going on?

The color change from purple to red or green, indicates a change in the environment for the dried cabbage juice. That change is the pH or acid level of the liquid it touches. Changing how you act because you are in a library or religious building, is helpful and responsible. That is not being a 'chameleon'.

Write a Play:

Reptilian Playwrights

Can you write your own short play like the ones at the beginning of the Humility and Respect sections? Create one character who acts like a 'chameleon' and one who doesn't. For example, they might change what they say they like based on what friends in two different groups say. It might be something small like their favorite card game, or something really important. Get creative! We'd love to read your play!



Try it for real: I'd like to thank my support crew....



All of us need support at certain times in our lives. You need friends on your support crew who you trust to ask, “Do I have ketchup on my face?” who won't tease you about the answer. You need adults to rely on if you can't talk about a problem with your parents/caregivers. You can strive to be this type of friend and to grow into this kind of responsible adult.

Imagine:

We have a situation here....

Sit quietly and imagine these scenes. Notice who comes to mind in each one.

1. You are playing with a group of friends at one of their homes. Someone slaps a note on your back and the others laugh. Who do you ask what it really says?
2. It is lunchtime at school when you find a hole in your pocket instead of lunch money. Who can you ask to borrow money? Who will trust you or share their lunch with you?
3. You are doing homework when your brother collapses next to you. Who do you call?
4. You are at home alone for the first time. It feels good to be trusted to keep out of trouble. You wash an apple for a snack, but the tap breaks when you turn it off and water squirts everywhere. You can't reach your parents, who do you go to or call?

Why not thank friends you rely on and adults you want to be like for being there for you?

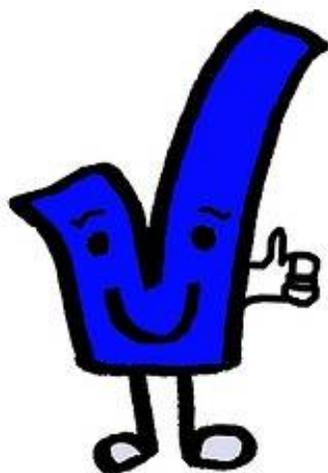
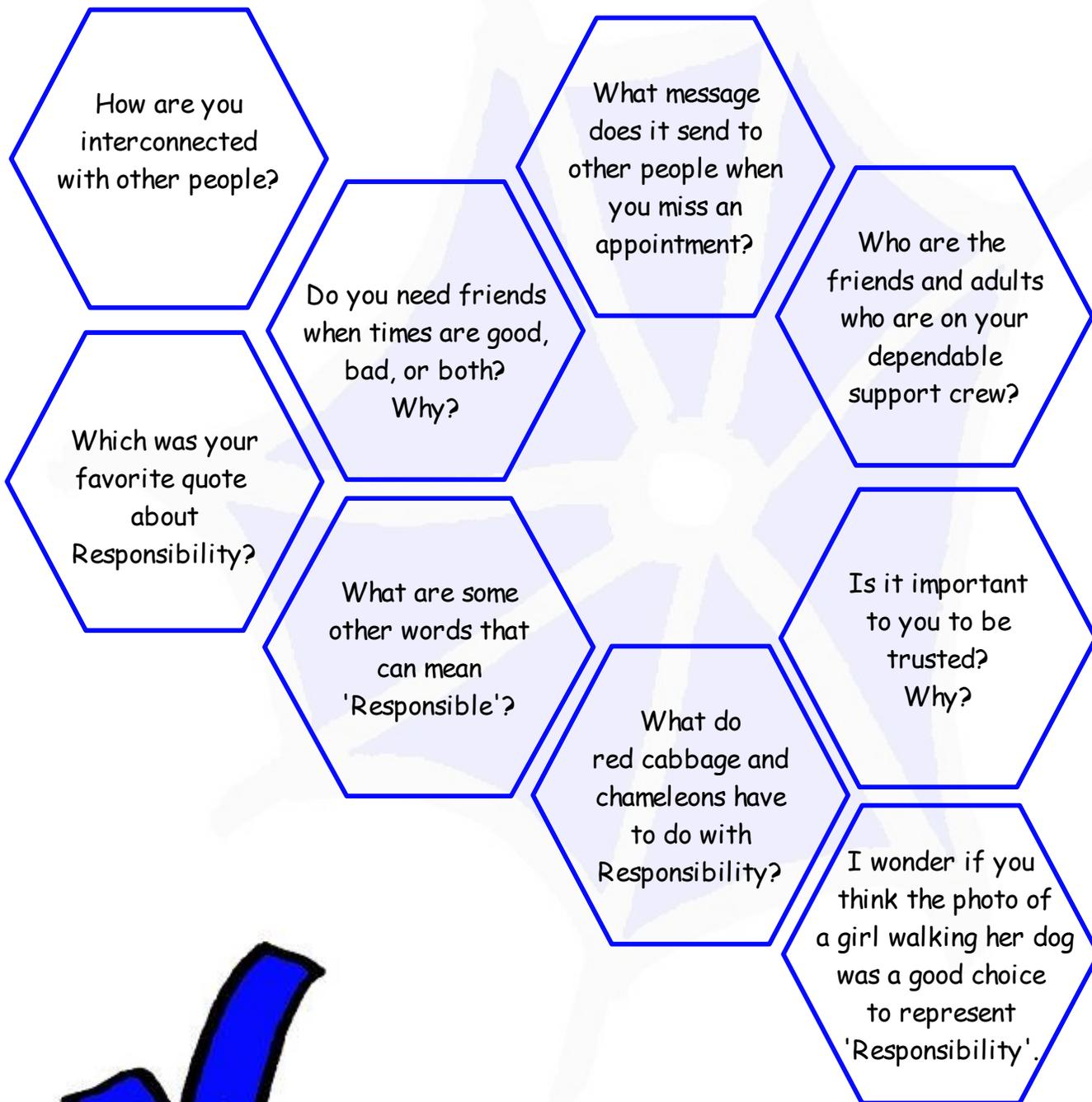
You already serve your friends, family and other groups like sports teams. As you get older you may have to choose between groups when it is not possible to serve them all. I spent several months away from my family, including my son turning from eight to nine while I cared for a dying family member. This was one of the hardest things I ever did, but it was easier when my son said, “It's okay, Mommy, I know you are needed more there right now.”

Read:

My People, My Family

Read about [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) who had to choose between the needs of her country and her family. For nearly two decades she has been under house arrest in Burma for her political activities, missing out on being with her children as they grew up and being with her husband when he died. Choosing between responsibilities is not easy, but it helps to remember we are fortunate to have more than one place to be of help.

Instant Replay for Responsibility:



Answers to word unscramble:

- DEPENDABLE
- RELIABLE
- STEADFAST
- TRUSTWORTHY
- LOYAL

Answers to quote matching:
1D 2C 3E 4B 5A 6F