

**Lesson Plan****Lesson Goals****Lesson Goal(s): Pillar of Character – Responsibility**

*Key Understanding: Character is what determines how we behave, even when no one is looking.*

*Responsibility is one of the six pillars. Being responsible is one way we show good character. Being responsible means you can be relied upon. You are dependable.*

**Learners will...**

- ✓ Be able to explain 'responsibility'.
- ✓ Share examples of how they can be responsible at school and home
- ✓ Understand that not fulfilling responsibilities has consequences

**Curriculum Introduction**

☞ Wear 'Green' – the color for Responsibility

☞ Introduce yourself to the group

☞ Stand where everyone can see you and hear what you say

◆ Welcome students to Character Counts

◆ Provide an overview of the program –Review the six pillars

**Opening Activity – 5 to 10 Minutes**

☞ **Pet Ponderings** -What are considerations when you have a pet?

➔ *Some classrooms have a fish or other pet, or you may be able to bring your pet. Another option would be a stuffed animal that could simulate a pet*

➔ Introduce your pet, question and discussion:

- Why do people have pets?
- If you get a puppy, what are some things a puppy needs?
- As the puppy grows into an adult dog, what does it need?
- Then the puppy gets old and near their end of life, discuss needs..
- What kinds of things does a pet need? (Food, water, exercise, bath or cleaning, health care, petting...)
- What might happen if we don't give our pet what they need (get sick, starve, become mean,

☞ **Explain** that these are consequences of us not caring for our pet or being 'responsible'.

**Relating Game / Activity Experience to Decision Making (Anchor) 5 minutes**

**Responsibility** – one of the six pillars of character – display pillar from 'Six Pillars lesson'

**Lead discussion**

➔ What does it mean to 'be responsible' for something like a pet or some chores at home?

- ➔ What do you think it means to be responsible at school?
- ➔ If you say you will take care of your pet; feed, water, walk or play with – then that is your ‘responsibility.
- ➔ If your parents tell you they expect you to make your bed or keep your room picked up or do dishes, that is a responsibility

### Creating a Vision – (Add) (Content Delivery)

☞ Share objectives:

- ✓ Be able to explain ‘responsibility’.
- ✓ Share examples of how they can be responsible at school and home
- ✓ Understand that not fulfilling responsibilities has consequences.

**Using a long piece of paper, or a white board:**

- Create a ‘responsibility timeline’ – draw a horizontal line and starting when ‘someone’ or you got up.
- Record each event completed that showed responsibility: Getting dressed without being told, feed your pet, putting dishes away after breakfast, getting to bus on time, bring needed schoolwork....

**Refer** to ‘Responsibility pillar from ‘Six Pillars lesson (optional)

Review words that explain Responsibility:

#### RESPONSIBILITY

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Do your best
- Think before you act
- Be accountable for your words, actions and attitudes
- Set a good example for others
- Choose a positive attitude
- Make healthy choices

➔ **Relate** the above to ‘timeline tasks. Ask / provide students examples:

- complete their work
- set a good example for others
- **consider consequences of their actions (and inactions)**

☞ **lead discussion** on consequences – what might happen if you don’t care for your pet?

→ This is a consequence, something that happens because of what you did or didn’t do. Ask yourself, ‘What if...’

→ What if – this tells us a possible consequence

- What if I don’t do my homework? (Brainstorm consequences)
- What if I don’t doing chores at home?
- What if ...

☞ You are responsible for you and what you do...if you make a mess....?

## Application and Reflection (Apply)

☞ **Personal Responsibility Inventory** – page 4 and 5: (Handout: Personal Responsibility Inventory).

➔ You may wish to do the reflection portion as a class or leave it for them to do individually.

☞ **Take a Stand Activity**

➔ **Instruct students** to stand on a line in the center of the room, designate one side 'responsible' and the other 'not responsible'.

**Read statements – traits/characteristics of a responsible person or actions. Students should pick a side the of room based on whether or not they believe it is 'responsible' or 'not responsible'.**

Traits of **Responsible** people:

- are organized and on time
- think before speaking or acting
- keep their promises
- do helpful things
- do their part
- do their best work
- are persistent (keep trying)
- don't blame others for their mistakes

Not Responsible Characteristics

- late
- loose papers and belongings
- not do what they say they will
- watch out for themselves, do not help
- let others do the work
- lack effort – just get it done
- quit easily
- make excuses

## Summarize Key Points

### Summarize Key Concepts

è Responsibility is one of the six pillars of Character

- **RESPONSIBILITY**

○ Do what you are supposed to do

- Do your best
- Think before you act
- Be accountable for your words, actions and attitudes
- Set a good example for others
- Choose a positive attitude
- Make healthy choices

## Assessment and Goal Setting (10 Minutes) (Away and Goal-Setting)

☞ What sticks about responsibility? Post a poster of pet outline (dog attached) or project on interactive board (Handout: Dog Outline)

- Provide each student with 3 sticky notes. Ask students to write one thing on each sticky that they can do to show they are responsible.
- As students complete them, they should 'stick' them on the outline of the pet.
- If time allows, share some of the responses with the group.

OR

☞ Students will create a 'chore chart'. (Handout: Chore Chart)

- Hand out blank 'generic' chore chart.
- Direct students to personalize the chart by adding their responsibilities/chores.
- Think about responsibilities at home, at school and in your community
- Encourage students to 'check off' when they completed that responsibility each day
- As you assist, review the chart for understanding.

## Preview Next Lesson

☞ Explain that today we looked at 'Responsibility'. Our next pillar is 'Fairness'!