



# Raising Children the Islamic Way

## Session Six

### **Teaching children responsibility**

What are the responsibilities of a believer?

Towards God, Self, Family, Society . . .

# Why teach responsibility?

- Allows children to feel trusted
- Increases their self esteem
- Helps them build better relationships
- Makes children become helpers and deputies of parents (The 7-7-7 hadith)

# Ways to teach responsibility

- 1) Age appropriate chores
- 2) Decision making
- 3) Independence
- 4) Guiding instead of telling what to do
- 5) Allowing them to take ownership of actions
- 6) Letting them bear some consequences of their actions.

# Chores

Shared household tasks create responsibility, a sense of belonging, self esteem. . .

Chores teach children how to complete a given task, be clean and organized, and learn how a household functions.

Chores get children into the habit of helping others and not just allow others to do everything.

Create a positive spirit in chores by being flexible, creative, and giving positive reinforcement.

Chores should not be given out as punishments. It is also not a good idea to pay children to do chores.

# Simple chores for the early years

- Wiping with cloth and water
- Setting/clearing table
- Helping sort laundry
- Putting away groceries
- Putting books/toys away
- Assisting with baking etc.

# Habits that encourage responsibility

- 1) Commitment
- 2) Perseverance
- 3) Communication
- 4) Planning ahead
- 5) Volunteering

# Things to avoid

- Do not allow children to blame others or make excuses for something they should be taking responsibility for.
- When you allow your child to constantly see him/herself as the victim, it encourages a pattern of not taking responsibility for one's actions or behavior.
- Instead of talking about whose fault it was, talk about who was responsible for it.

# Be a good model

When you make a commitment, do your best to keep it.

Make a promise only when you are serious about it. Keeping promises is a sign of faith. *And fulfill the promise, surely every promise shall be questioned about.*  
(17:34)

Be consistent in whatever you say and do.

Take responsibility for when things go wrong.

# Reminders from the Holy Prophet (s)

1) Nothing breaks a child's esteem more than being told by capable and respected adults that he cannot do something (that is appropriate for his age . . . etc.). It creates a feeling of helplessness and inferiority. This is especially true if the child wants to do it, asks for help, but is told it is beyond his capacity.

2) Constantly pray for your children. Duas to recite often include:

a) The prayer of Nabi Ibrahim (a) – 14: 40, 37:100

b) The prayer of Nabi Zakariya (a) – 3:37

c) The prayer of believers – 25:74

d) Dua no. 25 of Sahifa Sajjadiyyah

# Resources to check

## Chores

<http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/814456/why-your-kids-should-be-doing-chores-1>