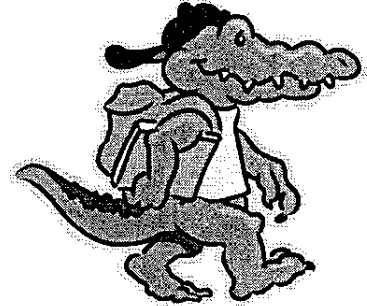


Character Corner

Responsibility

- Your child did his math homework—you watched him work on it for an hour. But after the bus left, you found it on your kitchen counter.
- Your daughter suddenly remembers there is a social studies assignment due tomorrow. But she can't do it—she left her book at school.



Do these situations sound familiar? Responsibility is our value of the month for September. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child take responsibility for his/her belongings and homework:

Make sure Homework Gets to School

For many children, getting ready for school each day involves a scavenger hunt: Where's my homework? My sneakers? My lunch box? You can save time and tempers. All you need a cardboard box for each child. The box should be large enough to hold everything you child takes to school each day. Choose a place for box—by the door or in the child's room. Upon returning from school in the afternoon, the first task is to place all belongings in the box. When homework is finished, it goes in the box, too. In the morning, the box is the last stop before going out the door.

Make Remembering Easy

Try using a large family calendar or bulletin board. Use different colors on the calendar for each person's activities. Add things like major tests or project due dates. Help your child get in the habit of checking it each morning.

Help kids stay organized

Help your child get used to using his/her planner to write homework and other reminders. The planners are also a great way for you to communicate with your child's teacher. Help older kids to keep their binders neat and organized.

Figure out why your child is Forgetting

Try as you might, there are some kids who always seem to forget to bring home their homework, despite all your efforts. Ask yourself:

- *Is my child looking for attention?* If so, don't react when he tells you that he's forgotten—stay calm and let him accept the consequences.
- *Is the homework too hard?* Talk with the teacher. Is your child the only one having trouble? What extra help could she receive?