


## RESPONSIBILITY

This year we are inviting your seven-year-old to take responsibility. You are probably ready for this – so are they, they just don't know to ask for it. This year we want to help your child fully move to "BIG KID" status and every seven-year-old I know wants to be known as a big kid! In order to get to that level in your home we are going to help them embrace responsibility at school, home, and with their friends. We are going to lead you toward an experience where you have the chance to give them your blessing, as they become a "BIG KID." When it comes to responsibility, don't just give it to them. Help your child learn and grow by becoming responsible!

Being a seven-year-old likely means two things, your child survived kindergarten or first grade and they are growing up. I wish I could tell you how to slow this process down. Since they are becoming big kids we want to invite them to become more responsible this year. Remember don't just give responsibility away. Make sure and help your child grow responsibly.

Here is how we are going to invite your son or daughter to embrace a new level of responsibility. Your next step is to check out the three activities we have created. You are going to be able to walk your child through what the Bible says about responsibility at school, at home, and with friends. After each activity your child can decide what ways they can be responsible in each of these three major areas of their world. You can spread these sessions out in a way that fit your family and your child.

Next we want you to start preparing for an experience using what we call the blessing box. Yes, it's a literal box and it is going to be filled with some important letters from people in your child's life. You are welcome to decorate a box to fit your child's personality if you are super crafty. Next you are going to ask their teacher at school, parents of your child's friends, and other siblings. You will also write a letter to your child about how you've seen them be responsible. We have provided you with a sample letter in the planning guide if you get stuck.



## Activities:

### Activity 1 – Responsibilities at School

**What You Need:** Paper, colored pencil or crayons

**What You Do:** Define responsibility in a way your 7-year old can understand. Ask them what they think responsibility means. Responsibility is choosing to do the right thing.

Ask, “If God told you that you could have anything you wanted, what would you ask for?” God asked King Solomon this and his answer was WISDOM (knowing what is true and right). This answer pleased God, so He made Solomon the wisest man to ever live. This wise man had a lot to say about knowledge and we develop knowledge through learning.

#### Read Proverbs 2:10

*Your heart will become wise. Your mind will delight in knowledge.*

#### Proverbs 8:10

*Choose my teaching instead of silver. Choose knowledge rather than fine gold.*

#### Proverbs 15:2

*The tongues of wise people use knowledge well. But the mouths of foolish people pour out foolish words.*

Help your child fill out the responsibility chart listing the things for which he/she is responsible at school.

#### What You Say:

We can gain knowledge by being responsible at school.

## Activity 2- Responsibility at Home

Children are ready for more responsibility at home around this age. They have the ability to unload a dishwasher, put away clean clothes, make their bed, clean up toys, etc. These opportunities help them grow into a responsible person.

**What You Need:** Paper, colored pencil or crayons

**What You Do:** Help your child fill out the responsibility chart including his/her current responsibilities in the home column.

### Read Luke 17:10a

*“Suppose you can be trusted with very little. Then you can be trusted with a lot.”*

As you talk with your child about being a big kid maybe there are some responsibilities you can add to this column.

## Activity 3 – Responsibility with Friendships

**What You Need:** Bible, Paper, colored pencil or crayons


### What You Say:

We all need friends. Even Jesus surrounded Himself with a group of friends. Let's take a look at the end of John 1 and figure out who the first disciples were.

Jesus knew living life alone wasn't good. We can choose to be responsible in our friendships.

### What You Do:

Help your child think of a few specific friends, and then ask how they can show responsibility in their friendships. Encourage them to write down the answers.



## Blessing Box

The final experience for your child in learning about responsibility is the Blessing Box. We have looked at responsibilities for your child in three areas: school, home, and friendships. Choose someone (or more than one person) that represents each of these areas (e.g. a teacher; the parent of one of your child's friends; someone to represent home, such as a mother, father, older sibling, etc.). Have each person write a letter to your child, stating the ways they've seen your child being responsible.

Guide these individuals in the writing of the letters, specifically with your child in mind -- remembering that this time is to signify his/her becoming a "big kid" through responsibility.

Feel free to use the provided sample letter as a guide. Then place these letters inside the Blessing Box. This can be something you create, buy, or already have in your possession. The Blessing Box can be in just about any form; it is simply meant to house the letters. Feel free to make it something that matches your child's room, is something that the two of you made by hand together, or is a keepsake box that is kept in a special place in your home.

Designate a special time to present your child with this Blessing Box, telling him/her that they've shown they are now a "big kid" by being responsible at school, at home, and in their friendships. Read the letters to your child and pray with them, that God would help them continue to be responsible as they grow up, by choosing to do what is right. If you would like additional guidance, you can use the script we have provided for the presentation of the Blessing Box.

### Sample Letter to Your Child:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am so proud of who you are becoming. At home you have been keeping your room clean without me even having to ask you. You take such good care of the dog by walking her, keeping her food and water bowls filled, and even giving her a bath sometimes. I see you choosing to do what is right most of the time. You're choosing to share with your sister, even if you may not want to.

All of these things show that you are responsible. I love watching you become who God created you to be. You help our house be a place of love and peace by being responsible. I love that God gave you to me. You have shown that you can be responsible. I pray that you continue to allow God to shape who you are.

Love you,

Mom

### Blessing Box Presentation Sample Script:

We've spent some time looking at all the responsibilities you have at school, at home, and with your friends. Responsibility means taking good care of the things under your control. While learning about responsibility, you have shown us that you are ready to do your best in all of these areas. We asked some special people in your life to write letters to you about the responsible behaviors they've seen in you. Mom and I also wrote a letter. We want to read these to you.

*[Read the letters.]*

We've placed your letters inside this Blessing Box. You can take them out at any time and read them to remember how proud we are of how responsible you've been at home, with your friends, and at school. We are blessed to have you in our family, and we hope you'll be blessed by the letters inside this Blessing Box.

We love you!!

## WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MY 7-YEAR-OLD?

Your child is stepping into their “Big Kid” years. There can be some insecurity for children during this transition. This year kids are spending a good deal of their time away from you, which can be a little scary for everyone involved. However, they are developmentally ready for this shift toward independence.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Tend to be in perpetual motion, squirm, gesture while talking, etc.
- Will test muscle strength by skipping, running, throwing, catching
- May be sloppy because they tend to do things in a hurry
- Can tire easily because of the fast pace at which they do things
- Engage in lots of chasing games, specifically boy/girl chasing on playground

### RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Tattling becomes very real at this age
- Need rules and rituals
- Opportunities for unmonitored social interactions
- Care what others think about them
- Will begin asking for privacy
- Focuses on friendships with peers and interacts with other adults such as a friend's parent
- Plays with friends of the same gender
- Has a few close friends they play with more than others

### EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Can distinguish reality from fantasy
- Play becomes more dramatic
- Still can't fully process a consequence before they execute an action
- Tend to be overly sensitive
- Have a tendency to still be egocentric
- Moody
- Increased move toward independence, spending a good deal of time apart from family
- More aware of their own emotions and the emotions of others
- See things as black and white with no middle ground

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Begin to understand what they see/hear (This is a great time to begin reading the Bible to your child.)
- May ask questions about spirituality because of their desire for learning

**SCHOOL****HOME****FRIENDS**