



3–5 Years

Social-Emotional: Personal Responsibility

WHEN INTRODUCED AND EMPHASIZED: Weeks 32–36

BEHAVIORS TO OBSERVE

- Understanding and Taking Personal Responsibility

OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

How does the child demonstrate an understanding of personal responsibility when he/she:

- works toward a goal he/she set (Week 32, Day 3 center activity)?
- tells about a good decision he/she made (any free play period after Week 33, Day 3)? Example: Child says “I thought about swinging on the swings but I rode on a bike first. I got upset yesterday because I didn’t get to ride on a bike.”
- makes a responsible choice (any routine task after Week 34, Day 3)? Example: Child puts away toys during cleanup time; puts away toothbrush after brushing teeth.
- sorts cards into “safe” and “not safe” piles (Week 35, Day 3 center activity)?
- draws a picture of a safe choice for the classroom book (Week 36, Day 3 group activity)?

FOLLOW-UP LEARNING SUPPORTS

Reinforce

The following activities are designed to support the ongoing development of understanding and taking personal responsibility.

- While transitioning to center activities or outside time, invite children to say what they want to do (offer a goal) for the next activity.
- Invite the child to discuss options for a child who seems uncertain about what decision to make.
- Ask child what safe choices he/she sees other children making during various times of the day. Encourage children to describe what makes the choice a safe one.
- Give children a “thumbs up” when you see them making good decisions, meeting goals, and/or making responsible choices.



Reintroduce

The following activities are designed to support the development of personal responsibility among children who find it challenging to understand and take personal responsibility. The activities are also appropriate for all children.

- Repeat the Week 32, Day 2 group activity. Help children understand what a goal is (introduced Week 32, Day 2) and how they can work toward meeting a goal.
- Help children understand the process of making a decision by talking about reasons for decisions you make. Remind children what it means to make a decision.
- Discuss ways to take responsibility for things we do in the room. Example: clean up our area after eating a meal or snack.
- Repeat the Week 35, Day 2 group activity. Remind children what it means to be safe. If appropriate, provide clues of answers to questions posed in the activity.