

DEPENDABILITY

FEBRUARY 2023



POWERFUL WORDS CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

PARENTS PERCH

Young students: “You can count on me!”

Older students/teens/adults: “The ability to show others that they can rely on and trust you.”

Week 1 Dependability defined: What does dependability mean and how do I show it?

Week 2 Promises and commitments: How can I follow through?

Week 3 Priorities/Perspective: Who do I depend on and who depends on me?

Week 4 Mistakes and making it right: How can I be accountable?

Dear Family,

The Powerful Word of the month for February is “dependability.”

Dependability is closely linked with being accountable, responsible and trustworthy. It’s a powerful word that asks people to:

- keep their promises,
- show up for those who rely on them
- complete jobs/tasks
- keep one’s word
- fulfill commitments
- do your best at the job
- be accountable for mistakes
- contribute to your family, community and world

It’s important that we teach children that when we show dependability, it isn’t always convenient! Sometimes, fulfilling what you’ve promised takes sacrifice. Completing a chore at home may mean that you are not out playing with friends. Attending your little sister’s/ brother’s birthday party as you

promised may mean you are not watching the game or attending a camping trip that your buddies are all enjoying. It may not always “feel” easy to be dependable.

Of course, there is also much to gain by being a dependable person. It feels good to be a person whose friends and family members see as responsible. People rely on dependable people because they know they will get the task done and be there when they are needed. Dependable people often gain privileges; higher pay, better jobs & leadership positions for being someone others can rely on during both mundane and challenging times.

A growing body of research shows that “soft skills” like being dependable, rival academic or technical skills in predicting employment and earnings, among other outcomes. How do we help kids to become more dependable and responsible? One small 25-year longitudinal study says that chores could be

part of the answer (University of Minnesota). Shared jobs give kids a sense of responsibility that extends throughout their lives. Additional studies add credence to this finding. Interestingly, these days many parents take chores off the plates of kids who are busy with school and other activities. Parents might consider adding these household tasks back in!

We thank you for your support. You are pivotal in helping to make our school one of the best personal development centers in the world.

Here’s to your success!

Best Regards,

—Your Motivated and Dedicated Instructors

UPCOMING POWERFUL WORDS

MARCH	PERSISTENCE
APRIL	COURTESY
MAY	RESILIENCE