

BAHÁ'Í CHILDREN'S CLASS LESSONS

28. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS

Welcome the children to the class and see that they are sitting comfortably. Have one or two children read or recite prayers.

Today we are going to talk about responsibility. That is being responsible. What does responsible mean? Yes, it means we are in control. For example mother might say, "You are responsible for watering my plant." What would this mean? (Have the children describe their actions) If mother said, "You are responsible for feeding this small child." What would you do? If father said, "You are responsible to walk with your little brother to the crèche." What would you do?

You see, when we are responsible, somebody is relying on us to do something and to do it well. If we don't do it someone or something will suffer.

Now the most important responsibility in our lives is to be responsible for ourselves. When we are babies our parents or care-givers are responsible. They have to do everything for us. Gradually we learn to do things for ourselves. We become more responsible. We learn to feed ourselves. We learn to walk.

Our parents pray for us. They ask God to help and protect us. Our parents teach us how to pray. They teach us how we should behave. They teach us what God expects of us. Gradually we learn to do these things. Gradually we learn what is right and what is wrong. We learn to do the things that are right. We do not do the things which are wrong.

God gives us laws so that we can live together happily. We need to learn what God wants us to do. We need to learn to obey God's laws. Each one of us needs to take responsibility in our own life and make sure that we do the right thing.

ACTIVITIES

All the children will take part in these activities. Place them in pairs with an older child partner to a younger child. Get the children to prepare skits on taking responsibility. Make suggestions to help any children who need it. If time permits, after they have acted out their pieces suggest that they prepare to act these.

FINISHING

Remind the children that they need to learn to take responsibility for themselves, bit by bit. For instance: - If someone always packs their bag for school, start packing their own bag and someone older can check that they have everything they need. Tidy the room and say a final prayer.