

CHOOSE TO BE NICE[®]

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE - FIRST GRADE

RESPONSIBILITY



RILEY THE RESPONSIBLE MOUSE
is accountable for her own actions.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Student-centered activities designed to promote lifelong social and emotional intelligence
- Book recommendations + literacy activities
- Home connections + tips for parents

**CHOOSE
TO BE NICE[®]**



Welcome to the First Grade Responsibility Learning Activities!

This month, your school community will be emphasizing the importance of responsibility. Use this Learning Activity Guide to help students understand and embrace responsibility through an engaging video or audio recording, a children’s book, a lesson, discussion questions, extension ideas, bonus materials, and at-home engagement. These fun and student-centered activities are cross-curricular and include opportunities for children to collaborate and work independently, exercise their literacy skills and creativity, and develop social and emotional awareness.

The Choose To Be Nice® school program is a comprehensive and engaging SEL (social and emotional learning) program that focuses on the nine important values of respect, kindness, acceptance, teamwork, honesty, responsibility, friendship, patience, and courage. Schools focus on one value per month, and all program components are designed to foster empathy, kindness, and lifelong values that will help children become resilient and compassionate individuals. All learning activities are aligned with the five core social-emotional learning competencies identified by CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning), the nation’s leading organization advancing the development of academic, social, and emotional competence for all students. As students go through the Choose To Be Nice program and learn and practice the Choose To Be Nice values, they are building their skills in the five competencies: self-management, self-awareness, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness.



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GETTING STARTED

OUR VALUES

Choose To Be Nice promotes its mission with these nine important values:

RESPECT - be polite and show consideration for others and their differences

KINDNESS - be nice and friendly to people wherever you go

ACCEPTANCE - appreciate and recognize people for who they are

TEAMWORK - collaborate and work together with others

HONESTY - be truthful and fair

RESPONSIBILITY - be accountable for your own actions

FRIENDSHIP - be a friendly companion other people want to be around

PATIENCE - be calm and understand that some things take time and endurance

COURAGE - be brave and dare to be nice even when it's hard

GETTING STARTED

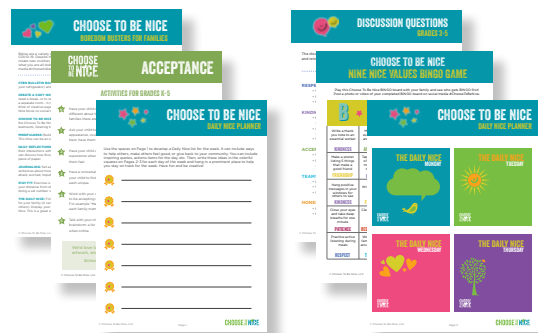
ONLINE RESOURCES

Resources for educators and families are available to download on our website.

Educator Resources Page: The entire Choose To Be Nice curriculum, along with supporting documents, additional student worksheets, at home activity guides, bonus materials, and this guide, are all available on our website on the Educator Resources Page. To access materials visit: www.choosetobenice.com/educator-resources. Use password: **CTBNschool24-25**.



Family Resources Page: Please be sure to direct your families to our online **Family Resources Page**, where we have additional engaging and fun at home activities for families, as well as tips and other resources. Families can access the activities at: www.choosetobenice.com/home-community-resources/.



GETTING STARTED

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

Here is a suggested schedule to follow for First Grade Responsibility Month:

Prior To Week One:

- Send home the Choose To Be Nice At Home Activity Book (First Grade Responsibility) available on the Educator Resources Page
- Have books from the suggested book list readily available for your students

Week One:

- Play Riley's video found on the Educator Resources Page
- Practice the Responsibility Chant
- Responsibility Learning Activity: Rays of Responsibility

Week Two:

- Have Group Discussions about responsibility

Week Three:

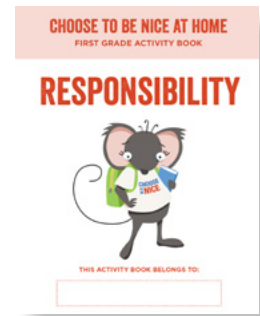
- Have students reflect on and write about responsibility during journal time. Journal covers and pages are available to download from the Educator Resources Page

Week Four:

- Responsibility Extension Activity

CHOOSE TO BE NICE AT HOME ACTIVITY BOOK

Essential to adopting any new behaviors is making sure the learning reaches home. **Choose To Be Nice At Home Activity Books** help to reinforce the Choose To Be Nice values and encourage positive dialogue at home. Each Guide includes a note to parents/guardians, a fun activity, a chant for younger students, discussion questions, a coloring page and a poster. Be sure to send this guide home prior to starting this month's learning activities.



RILEY THE RESPONSIBLE MOUSE VIDEO

In this short video, **Riley the Responsible Mouse** introduces younger students to the concept of responsibility through everyday examples and builds excitement for additional learning and exploration. The video includes a chant to help kids remember to be responsible and offers a foundation for classroom discussions and activities on responsibility. Be sure to play this video prior to starting this month's learning activities.



RILEY THE RESPONSIBLE MOUSE CHANT

Each Choose To Be Nice value has a chant to help younger students in PreK-2 remember key concepts. Here is Riley The Responsible Mouse's chant:

Help others and get the job done.

Riley does, and she has loads of fun.

All At Home Activity Guides, videos, and chants are available on our website on the [Educator Resources Page](#). Password is CTBNschool24-25.

RILEY THE RESPONSIBLE MOUSE is accountable for her own actions.

BOOK SUGGESTION:

Can I Keep Him?, By Steven Kellog



LEARNING ACTIVITY: Rays of Responsibility

SUBJECT CONNECTIONS: English Language Arts, Social Studies

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Chart paper
- Copies of Responsibility Sun

INSTRUCTIONS: Introduce students to Riley the Responsible Mouse by playing Riley's video.

Next, read the story **Can I Keep Him?**

After reading, begin brainstorming with the class and list different ways they can be **responsible** at school, and at home. Record their answers on chart paper.

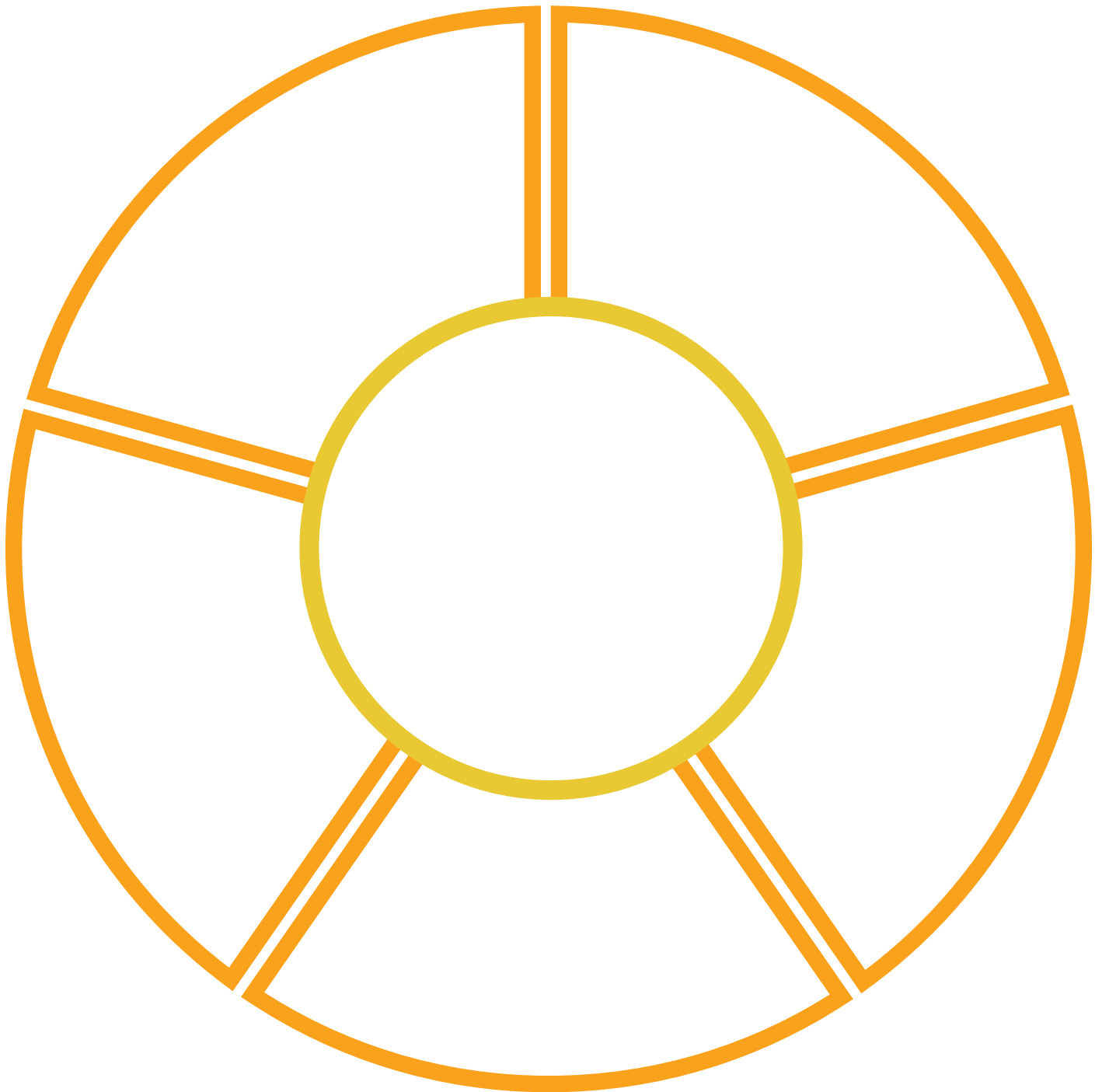
Once the list is complete, demonstrate the activity with a copy of the Responsibility Sun handout. Choose five ways to be responsible from the list, and write each way on an individual ray of the sun.

Next, give each student their own Responsibility Sun handout to complete. Have them choose five ways (three ways at school and two ways at home) that they can be more responsible than they are now. Remind students to use complete sentences in their writing. Let them know that they can add ways to be responsible that are not on the class list if they think of new ones.

When each student's Responsibility Sun has been completed, display the suns for everyone to see. Then have a conversation with the students each day for a week inviting them to share how they have been responsible in certain areas. If they have displayed a responsibility on their sun in class, they can go up to their sun and color in a ray.

Use with FIRST GRADE **RESPONSIBILITY** activity: Rays of Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITY SUN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (K-2)

Use these questions to engage students in thoughtful discussions about responsibility.

- What responsibilities do you have at home?
- What happens when you are not responsible with your belongings? How do you feel when you lose something?
- What are your responsibilities as a student?
- What do you think your teacher's responsibilities are?
- What are some of your responsibilities?
- How can you show responsibility at school? At home?

SOCIAL STORIES (K-2)

Social Stories are fun and engaging short stories that show a Choose To Be Nice value in action. Read the story out loud and use the questions to prompt meaningful discussion.

Story #1: Ms. Richardson always assigns a packet of homework for the week on Monday and requires the students to turn it in on Friday. Usually Sanjay finishes all of his homework for the week by Wednesday, but this week was especially busy for him with soccer practice. Also, there was a part of his math homework that he needed to ask his mom about. Before dinner on Thursday, Sanjay asked his mom for her help with his last math section while she was making dinner. She helped him and he finished the work while sitting on the stool. When he was done, he set his homework on his stool and ran outside to see his friends for a few minutes. The next morning, when he got to school, he looked in his backpack for his homework packet, but it was nowhere to be found! Sanjay could feel his heart thumping. Where could it be? He always keeps it in his backpack so he can turn it in. Then, it hit him. He was in such a rush to get outside to play that he left it on the stool. Oh no! What was he going to do? It was due today!

- *Did Sanjay show responsibility? Why or why not?*
- *Have you ever forgotten something you needed for school? How did it make you feel?*
- *What do you think Ms. Richardson will say to Sanjay about his homework?*
- *Would it be fair for Sanjay to get into trouble for turning in his homework late?*
- *How could Sanjay be more responsible in the future?*

Story #2: Darnell loves football. He frequently dreams of playing for Notre Dame and in the NFL. He practices whenever he can to help make his dreams a reality. Sometimes, he finds himself daydreaming about what it would be like to score the game winning touchdown in the Super Bowl. However, even though Darnell loves football, he knows that he has to do well in school too if he wants his dreams of playing in the NFL to come true. He knows that he has to graduate high school and get into college first before he can even think about playing professional football. Notre Dame has a great football team, but he must have good grades to get accepted. As much as Darnell would like to daydream all day about playing in the Super Bowl, he makes sure to focus, participate, and complete his work in all of his classes. He uses his agenda to keep track of his assignments so that he does not miss any work. He keeps his binder organized and makes sure to take notes and study things he does not understand.

When he encounters something that is difficult, he asks for help from his teachers rather than giving up. He also does his homework before going out to practice football so that he will not be too tired to complete it later. He cannot wait to see what his future holds, but he knows that, for now, he must focus on school.

- *How does Darnell show responsibility?*
- *Why is it important for Darnell to be responsible at school?*
- *Do you use some of the same strategies that Darnell uses to be responsible at school? If so, what ones? What are some other things that you do to be responsible?*
- *What do you think Darnell is focusing on more at this time, academics or football? Is this a good idea?*

EXTENSION IDEAS

Use these Extension Ideas to extend and reinforce the learning anytime throughout the month and year.

- Have students write a list of ways they can be responsible at home, in their school, or in their neighborhood community in their CTBN Journal.
- Organize monthly projects around the school for the class to complete. For example, collect and organize recyclables, water plants, or help another teacher organize or clean their classroom.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST - RESPONSIBILITY (K-2)

Use these additional books to reinforce the concept of responsibility.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, By Kevin Henkes

It Wasn't My Fault, By Helen Lester

The Year Of Billy Miller, By Kevin Henkes

The Summer My Father Was Ten, By Pat Brisson

A Chair for My Mother, By Vera B Williams

Good People Everywhere, By Lynea Gillen

The Lorax, By Dr. Suess

I Just Forgot, By Mercer Mayer

BONUS MATERIALS

Award Certificates: Choose To Be Nice Award Certificates are a great way to promote a positive school culture and reinforce the Choose To Be Nice value of the month. Use the Responsibility Award Certificate to recognize those students for consistently being responsible in class.



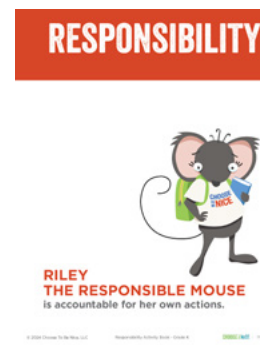
Reward Tickets: Keep a stack of Responsibility Tickets handy. When you observe a student being responsible through actions, words, or interactions, award them a ticket. Empowering students to award these tickets to their peers is a great way to encourage them to recognize and value responsible behavior in different situations. Consider setting up a system where tickets can be exchanged for small rewards or privileges.



Coloring Page: Students can use coloring pages during quiet time. Display completed pages around the classroom to celebrate students' understanding and commitment to responsibility.



Poster: Hang the poster in your classroom as a visual reminder of the importance of responsibility. Use the poster to spark meaningful discussions about responsibility.





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TO BE NICE[®]**



RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

This award is being presented to

*for being accountable for your
own actions.*

Keep up the good work!!



RESPONSIBILITY



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU WERE
CAUGHT BEING RESPONSIBLE

Name: _____

Date: _____



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