



**Priceless
Parenting** SM

"Online training for
the most important
job you'll ever have"

Priceless Parenting Newsletter October 2008

Greetings!

How is the new school year going? Each school year brings increasing challenges for our children and often new parenting challenges for us! Whether your children are just starting preschool or just starting college, Priceless Parenting gives you the skills to help them adjust to their increased responsibilities.

Whose responsibility is it?

Children are often capable of more responsibility than we give them. When parents take on responsibilities which their children really should be handling, they are likely to feel overwhelmed and underappreciated.

One mom complained about all the extra work she was doing now that her 3rd and 6th graders were back in school. In just one day, she did all these extra tasks:

- Tried to pick daughter up early from school to take her to her piano lesson but daughter forgot and took the bus home. Lectured daughter on the importance of remembering her piano lessons.
- Dumped out kid's backpacks and sorted through school papers.
- Worked on making dinner while being interrupted numerous times to help with homework.
- Reviewed graded schoolwork with children.
- Ran to the store to buy purple shirts after children announced that they need to wear purple tomorrow for Spirit Day.
- Read note from teacher that some school supplies are missing and due tomorrow. Ran out and bought the missing supplies. She also had the cashier give her lots of change so her daughter could use it for her math homework.
- Attended the school open house. Guiltily signed up to help with various activities.
- Packed forms, supplies and planners into each child's backpack.
- Asked kids if they needed to return books to the school library and then spent 10 minutes looking for the books.
- Packed lunches for the next day.
- Did a load of laundry after one child reported having no clean socks.
- Told kids to GO TO BED NOW!
- Got youngest a drink of water.

Mom then collapsed into bed. Anyone would be exhausted after a day like that!

It is very easy for parents to take on responsibilities that their children could be

Feedback Contest

You can enter our survey feedback contest for a chance to win a \$10 Starbucks gift card. All you need to do is [take the first Priceless Parenting lesson](#) (it's free!) and give us your [feedback on a brief survey](#).

The drawing will be on November 5th. We'll publish the winner's name/location in next month's newsletter.

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handling. What tasks do you think this mom could let her children handle? Are there tasks you're doing for your children that they could be doing?

When we stop doing something for our children, they learn to do it for themselves. They will probably not show great appreciation for their new responsibilities; however, it's essential to their growth and our sanity!

Starting a Parenting Discussion Group

Starting a parenting discussion group just got much easier! With the Priceless Parenting course, parents can go through a lesson prior to each meeting and arrive ready with questions, comments, personal stories and parenting struggles. The discussion group can be facilitated by any parent who is willing to set up a time and place to meet. If you would like information for facilitating a Priceless Parenting discussion group, please [email me](#).

This Month's Challenge: Giving More Responsibility

Decide on one thing that you are currently doing for your children that they could be doing for themselves. Let them know that you realize they are capable of handling this responsibility so you are turning it over to them. Then step out of the way. If you're tempted to jump back in and take over, remind yourself about the learning opportunity you would be stealing.

I would enjoy hearing your story about what responsibility you decided to give your child and how it's working so far. Please [let me know!](#)

Thanks for reading!

Warm Regards,

Kathy Slattengren