

Freedom and Responsibility

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Freedom and Responsibility

A universal
teaching principle

Freedom and Responsibility

KEY PRINCIPLE:

Freedom
within limits
of responsibility

Definition

FREEDOM:
the power or right
to act, speak, or think
as one wants without
hindrance or restraint

Definition

RESPONSIBILITY:
the opportunity or ability
to act independently
and make decisions
without authorization

As I say...

RESPONSIBILITY:
the ability
to respond
with ability

Victor Frankl: Man's Search for Meaning

"Freedom is not the last word.
Freedom is only part of the story and half of the truth.
Freedom is but the negative aspect of the whole
phenomenon whose positive aspect is responsibility."

Victor Frankl: Man's Search for Meaning

In fact, freedom is in danger of degenerating into mere
arbitrariness unless it is lived in terms of
responsibility."

Victor Frankl: Man's Search for Meaning

That is why I recommend that the Statue of Liberty on
the East Coast be supplemented with a Statue of
Responsibility on the West Coast."

Freedom and Responsibility



*With too
much freedom*

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*With too
little freedom*

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**The key to helping
our children is to offer
freedom within limits of
responsibility.**

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KEY PRINCIPLE:
The prepared
environment

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*In our
classrooms...*

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*Within limits
of safety...*

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*Limit the
number of
activities...*

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*Actions must
support the
collective
interest...*

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*Activities
leading to self-
development,
harmony, order
and self-
discipline?*

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There's a lot to think about
as we consider freedoms
based on limits of responsibility.

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A family story...



Flight late or cancelled?
Airport layout?
Time difference?
How to use a pay phone?



Run, sister run!
If we miss this plane,
Mom will...

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They understood freedom
within limits of
responsibility.

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We grant freedoms based
on our children's ability to
respond with ability.

The Three R's
Responsibility
Resourcefulness
Respect

For the younger child...

We limit their freedoms based on the needs of the group.

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Be helpful

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Take care of the objects in your environments

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Your activity leads to self-development, harmony, order and self-discipline

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Are using the resources in your environment wisely

Ask, does this behavior...

- **Disregard the needs of the group?**
- **Intend to harm another person or object?**
- **Lead the child to disorder?**

We offer freedoms within limits of responsibility.

Child's Need To Belong

- **Contact**
- **Power**
- **Protection**
- **Withdrawal**

Free Kids Talk Training

The Child's Need To Belong

<https://marenschmidt.com/sign-up-belonging>

45 minutes

To Help Enlarge Freedoms

- Develop skills
- Give added responsibility
- Grant new freedoms

**We are raising adults,
not children.**

Goal of Power

When a child's goal of power is being met,
we observe a child
who demonstrates
growing independence.

Goal of Power



**Practical
Life
Skills**

Goal of Power



- Voices an
Opinion
- Active
Participant

Goal of Power



**Feels
responsible
for actions**

Goal of Power Not Met



**We might feel
angry about
the child's
behavior.**

Goal of Power Not Met



**The
rebellious
child**

Goal of Power Not Met



**The
passive
child**

Three Questions

1. **HOW** can we offer more responsibility?
2. **WHEN** do we offer more responsibility?
3. **WHAT** freedoms follow?

HOW can we offer more responsibility?



Help our children learn new skills and practice current skills.

HOW can we offer more responsibility?



- Skill
- Responsibility
- Freedom

The key to enlarging the child's circle of power:
We teach skills that lead to greater responsibility and freedom.

Three Actions for Power Struggles

1. Change the environment.
2. Change the rules.
3. Change our attitude.

An Example:



Change the Environment



Change the Rules



Change Our Attitude



To Offer More Responsibility

1. How can I help my child be independent?
2. Can I teach new skills?
3. Should I change the environment?
4. Change the rules?
5. Change my attitude?

WHEN do we offer more responsibility?



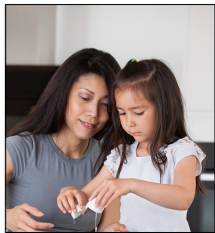
When we see signs of rebellion or frustration...

WHEN do we offer more responsibility?



When we see a child who refuses to engage...

WHEN do we offer more responsibility?



- Skill
- Responsibility
- Freedom

WHAT Freedoms Follow?



- What would you like to learn next?
- What would you like to be able to do?

For Example:



To Meet Goal of Power

It is this process of building skills, and assuming responsibility and freedom to act independently, that helps our children meet their unconscious goal of power. The process enlarges their circle of power, and it helps them feel like they belong.

Freedom and Responsibility

IN SUMMARY

To Offer More Responsibility

1. How can I help my child be independent?
2. Can I teach new skills?
3. Should I change the environment?
4. Change the rules?
5. Change my attitude?

To Meet Goal of Power

The key to enlarging the child's circle of power:

We teach skills that lead to greater responsibility and freedom.

To Enlarge Freedoms

As we see our child build skills and manage more responsibilities, we should consider, with our child, what freedoms should be allowed.

Our Job

As skills grow and responsibilities are accepted, freedoms should be granted, allowing us to confidently become smaller and smaller as our children become larger and larger.

Time for Questions



Thank you!

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