Responsibility Lessons—Primary Grades

**Character Trait:**  Responsibility  
**Small group:** Classroom behavior  
**Grades:** PK-K  
**Time:** 30 minutes  
**Materials:**  
- Responsibility poster  
- Responsibility pictures  
- *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell

**Lesson:**  
1. Begin by introducing the word responsible: “Responsible means we do the jobs we are supposed to do and we help others when the can. It means that we don’t wait for others to our work for us.”  
2. Ask students if they have jobs that they are supposed to do at school. List a few for them: sitting criss-cross on the carpet, cleaning up your center, coming in from the playground when you're called, doing your work.  
3. Read *Farmer Duck*. The students love to join in the chorus of “How goes the work? Quack!” I love how obviously the farmer is laying around letting someone else do the work for them. This type of literal example is usually very good for reinforcing concepts with PK students.  
4. Ask if they have jobs they are supposed to do at home. Say, “I have some pictures of some things that you might use to do jobs at home. When I show you the picture, raise your hand if you know the job that you’re supposed to do.” This is a great language development activity for PreK students. They often don’t know the names of things like brooms, dustpans, rakes, watering cans. I usually ask first, “What is this called?”, and then I ask “What’s the job I am supposed to do with this?” Usually, I role play a little with them: i.e. I show a picture of toothbrush, and after identifying it, I ask, “Do I have to brush my teeth if I’m too tired? What if I’m too tired? I can just go to bed, right?” or if I show them dishes, I say, “But I hate washing dishes! Do I still have to wash them?” Then we talk about how responsibility means that we still do our jobs even when we are tired or we don’t like what they are.  
5. Give students a stamp with a duck on it to remind them of how responsible Farmer Duck was and that we want them to be responsible, too.