



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson 27 – Doing My Part by Helping at Home

Today's lesson is about leadership: One characteristic shared by many leaders is their ability to take initiative to lend a helping hand (or paw) to others. As we are all spending more time in our homes, it is a great time to think of the many ways that you can enhance your leadership skills by taking initiative to help your family around the house. Even as the family dog, I found a way to help out at my house by fetching the newspaper every morning! As a member of your household, there are many things that you can do to help around your home. By taking initiative and asking your family how you can help, you will be showing leadership and responsibility.

Sticky Situation: Since it is springtime, many families around the country are cleaning their homes and participating in what is commonly known as “spring cleaning.” During dinner, you heard your family talking about cleaning your home. Each person in your family has been given certain tasks to do except for you. In the past, no one in your family has asked you to do any tasks during your family’s annual spring cleaning. You know this is the year that you can do your part by contributing to your family’s spring cleaning. As dinner is finishing up, you have your chance to say something to your family.

What do you say to your family to let them know that you want to be given tasks for spring cleaning? What kind of tasks would you ask to do? By taking initiative to help your family clean your home, you will be developing an important leadership characteristic. Leaders seek out ways that they can take initiative to help others like their family, friends, and classmates.

Activity: Let’s show some spring-cleaning initiative! Walk around your home make a list of things that could be cleaned, vacuumed, or dusted. When you are done with your list, rank the tasks by difficulty – put the easiest tasks first and the harder tasks after. Show the list to your family and ask if you can try your hand at some of the spring cleaning tasks, starting with the easiest tasks first.

Your family will thank you for showing some spring-cleaning initiative and will be impressed with your leadership skills! Contributing to your family’s spring cleaning is a great way to have fun and spend family time together. As we all spend more time at home, it is more important than ever to support and lean on your family.

Civic Resources: Check out this video by RocketKids called Taking Initiative is Cool:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALtsSru4jzE>