

Maggie's Civics Corner



Lesson #30 – (Leadership) Doing My Part by Helping at Home

Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about how HELPING CAN SHOW

LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY. One characteristic shared by many leaders is their ability to take initiative to lend a helping hand (or paw) to others. This 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 at my house by fetching the newspaper

every morning! There are many things you can do to help around the house. By taking initiative and asking your family how you can help, you will be showing leadership and responsibility.

Sticky Situation: When it is springtime, many families around the country give their homes a thorough cleaning, participating in what is commonly known as “*Spring Cleaning*”. During dinner, you heard your family discuss their plans for cleaning your home. Each person in your family has been given certain tasks to do except for you. In the past, no one had asked you to do any tasks during your family’s annual spring cleaning, but this year, you believe that you can do your part and contribute to the family’s “*Spring Cleaning*” efforts.

As dinner draws to an end, you have a chance to tell your family that you want to help. What do you say to them to convince them of your interest and ability? What kind of tasks would you tell them you can accomplish?

By taking the **initiative** to help your family clean your home, you are developing an important characteristic for leadership because **leaders** are people who always seek ways to help others like their family, friends, and classmates.

Activity: Show some “*Spring Cleaning*” initiative! Walk around your house and make a list of things that could be cleaned, vacuumed, or dusted. When you are finished listing everything, 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 tasks on the list, suggesting you start 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.

Civics Resources: Check out this video from RocketKids about how [Taking the Initiative is Cool](#).