What is responsibility?

Being responsible means you do the things you are expected to do and accept the consequences (results) of your actions.

For each situation, answer the questions about whether the person acted responsibly.

1. Sarah is in 5th grade. She is expected to meet her little sister at the front of the school right after school to walk home with her. Sarah’s friend wanted her to play on the playground for a minute after school. Before she knew it, 30 minutes had passed.

   What was Sarah’s responsibility?

   Was she being responsible?

   What are some possible consequences (results) of her actions?

2. Carlos was playing soccer at the park with some friends. His mom said to be home by 6:00 for dinner. At 5:55 Carlos’ friends wanted to play just one more game, but he knew if he didn’t go home then, he wouldn’t make it home by 6. Carlos walked home.

   What was Carlos’ responsibility?

   Was he being responsible?

   What are some possible consequences (results) of his actions?

3. Beth is supposed to help her grandma do some yardwork on Sunday. It’s a rainy day and she really doesn’t want to go, but she knows her grandma needs her help. Beth puts on her rain coat and boots and goes out to help her grandma.

   What was Beth’s responsibility?

   Was she being responsible?

   What are some possible consequences (results) of her actions?

4. Tom got a new bike for his birthday and his parents expected him to take good care of it. Tom laid his bike down in the driveway behind his dad’s car and then ran inside to get a snack. Tom’s dad was hurrying out and didn’t see the bike on the ground behind his car. He backed over it and crushed the wheel.

   What was Tom’s responsibility?

   Was he being responsible?

   What are some possible consequences (results) of his actions?