

## Ready, Responsible and Respectful – The 3Rs at Home and School

Students at Lincoln who demonstrate the 3Rs – Ready, Responsible and Respectful – can earn Success Slips from teachers throughout the school environment. Success Slips are given to the students along with a verbal description of the behavior that has been observed. For example, a student may be given a Success Slip and her teacher would comment on her behavior in the following way: “Susan, I noticed that you had your materials put away in your desk and you waited at your desk until I called your group to line up. You have shown me that you know how to be ready when we are getting ready to leave the classroom for art.” Success slips are effective in reinforcing appropriate behavior by all students and in reminding students who have more difficulty following school-wide expectations of appropriate behaviors. As of November 10, 2006, Lincoln students had earned more than 5,400 Success Slips since school started in September! Way to go!

How could you use the Success Slip idea at home? Catch them being good! For example: You hung up your jacket and put your mittens in the sleeve! Thank you! You worked hard on that math homework. I know it wasn't easy for you, but you should be proud of yourself for finishing it. Your brother really enjoyed listening to you read that story. That was a kind thing to do with him.

When your child misbehaves, point out how they broke your family rule or didn't meet the expectation and then briefly state what is expected. For example: You didn't take the garbage out as I asked. Please do it now. You took the toy from your sister's room without asking. Our rule is that we ask each other if we want to use something that belongs to someone else before we take it. Your teacher wrote a note that says you are behind three assignments in math. We'll need to make a plan for completing them and for doing your homework every night.

It is challenging for families to develop a system of incentives for positive behaviors at home, but having a special snack, borrowing a new movie or pushing bedtime back an hour on the weekend can all work the same way if you let your children know that those privileges happen because of specific behaviors you have observed at home during the previous week.