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All of us need to feel needed. All of us need to feel as if we are making a meaningful contribution. This applies to work, to church, and to families. In the family "all of us" includes children. Giving children chores and responsibility is one way to make them feel that they are an important part of the family team.

Giving children age appropriate chores also helps build their self-esteem. They can see the value of finishing an assigned job. They develop the ability to make mature judgments and become more responsible. Research points to the fact that children who grew up doing chores around their home enjoyed greater success in school. A large number of successful people in their mid-20's did chores as young children.

Our children and grandchildren may not always appreciate the chores we give them to do now, but the maturity they develop at a young age will last them a lifetime. We would be wise to make chores a regular part of our children's routine.