

# Household Chores

## A Discussion Guide for Adults



### 5 Facts and Discussion Questions

**Most kids would rather be outside playing** or spending time with their friends than doing chores or taking on extra responsibilities. However, there are things that need to be done. Talking to kids about responsibilities can help them understand the importance of teamwork and contribution to the family.

### Research Findings

1. Women and girls are more likely to do household chores than men.<sup>1</sup> On an average day, 20 percent of men say they do housework compared to 55 percent of women.<sup>2</sup>
2. Working women do about one more hour of household chores and caring for children than their husbands.<sup>3</sup>
3. In families where both parents work, sons spend only one-third as much time doing chores as sons in families where one parent worked and one stayed home.<sup>6</sup>
4. In families where both parents work, daughters spend 25 percent more time doing chores compared to families where only one parent worked and one stayed home.<sup>5</sup>
5. In families where both parents work part-time, kids do virtually no household chores.<sup>6</sup>

### Sources

1. Amy Joyce, "Household Chores Conform to Stereotype," The Washington Post, September 19, 2004.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Mary Holland Benin and Debra Edwards, "Adolescents' Chores: The Difference between Dual- and Single-Earner Families," Journal of Marriage and Family 52, no. 2 (May 1990): 361-373.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.

### Take It Further

ParentFurther discussion guides are created to help you talk with your kids about tough topics. Visit [www.ParentFurther.com](http://www.ParentFurther.com) for more discussion guides and additional resources.

### Discussion Questions

- **What was your experience with household chores when you were young?**
- **Why are most household chores not divided equally among family members?**
- **Why do you think two-income parents (who work full-time) expect less of their sons and more of their daughters?**
- **Why do most people assign household chores according to gender?**
- **With so many competing activities, why do many parents not require much of their kids in terms of household chores?**
- **What do you think kids learn from doing household chores?**

Chores and responsibilities can be a contentious issue within any family. But by making household chores a part of your children's life early on, you can help them become responsible adults who can take care of themselves when they grow older.