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**UNIT: CHILD CARE****TOPIC: Caregiver Responsibilities****TIMELINE: Day 1**

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**OBJECTIVES:**

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1. List responsibilities of caregivers.
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**MOTIVATOR/INTRODUCTION:**

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Teacher will read "That's The Way Kids Are" to the class.

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**INFORMATION:**

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1. Responsibilities of Caregivers
  2. Parent Letter--Explain to the students that in order to have a pre-school in class, pre-schoolers must be located and registered. The students can take the letter home and see if they can locate some children to attend the pre-school. The form must be returned within two days.
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**INDIVIDUALIZED ACTIVITIES:**

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1. Bewildered Brenda
  2. Child Care Project
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**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

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**CHALLENGE PROJECTS:**

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1. Parent Letter
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**SUMMARY:**

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Being a responsible caregiver for children requires preparation and dependability. This responsibility cannot be taken lightly.

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**RESOURCES:**

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## THAT'S THE WAY KIDS ARE

Kids do some strange things:

eat pickle sandwiches

like to make up silly songs,

begin each meal by asking, "When is dessert?"

think your brand new outfit would make great dress-up clothes.

can tell if you like them.

know that there is more cheese than macaroni in Macaroni and Cheese.

are afraid of the monsters under the bed.

think they are great help, when in fact, they are really making more messes  
for you to clean up.

want to have a different occupation every day.

want to be kissed better rather than have a bandaid.

mix water, sand, dead grass, and food coloring to make a potion.

like birthdays because of all the neat presents

begin many sentences with "I didn't do it".

hate being told "no".

enjoy little things that creep and crawl--worms, slugs, and strange looking  
bugs.

do not like most rules.

think a peanut butter and jelly sandwich would make a great menu for  
a party.

love to be loved.

forgive the many wrong things you do.

love you no matter what!

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAREGIVERS

Children have physical, mental and emotional needs. Physical needs deal with the body, mental needs relate to the mind, and emotional needs are associated with feelings and personality. Some needs may overlap into all three areas at times. Discuss with students the following characteristics and responsibilities that will be covered more in depth during this unit.

1. **LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING**--It is crucial that a responsible caregiver understands and loves children. In turn, he/she is usually liked by children. At the start, some people have a greater aptitude for these qualities, but one can learn to understand children by observation and study.
2. **MATURITY**--This does not mean one has to be a grandparent to be a successful caregiver. Maturity involves qualities such as being level-headed, dependability and an understanding of oneself. It commands the respect and confidence of others and is an aid in maintaining authority and discipline. Maturity is almost a necessity for successful interaction with others.
3. **HEALTH**--Caregivers should be in good physical health. They should also be mentally and emotionally sound. This is a protection to the caregiver as well as to the child. Providing quality care for children requires stamina and patience.
4. **SAFETY**--Good caregivers are safety-conscious and make every effort to protect the children they are responsible for from accidents. The safety-minded individual is alert to unusual as well as obvious dangers. He/she can quickly decide how to respond to potential dangerous situations.
5. **DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF CHILDREN**--Each child is special and different, yet every child follows a certain pattern or order of growth and development. Many things can affect the way a child follows these growth patterns. Heredity, nutrition, and surroundings all affect the way children grow. Family love and attention are important factors. The words normal and average tell what is true of most people or children. However, there will always be some individuals who grow and develop more slowly or more quickly than what is considered normal or average.
6. **GUIDANCE**--The mental and emotional needs of children are often more difficult to think of and remember than are the physical needs. To get along in the world, children need basic guidelines for behavior. We have the responsibility to teach children how to behave. The word discipline comes from the word disciple, which means 'student or 'follower. To teach guidelines successfully, begin with encouragement, love and praise. Children repeat actions they are praised for and give up actions that are ignored by others.
7. **PLAY**--Play is a child's natural way of learning. Children test and practice new physical, mental and social skills through play. Play gives the child an opportunity to act out feelings and builds a foundation for future learning. It is the way a child learns to concentrate, to imagine things, to try new ideas, and to practice grown-up behavior.
8. **TOYS**--You can help a child to learn and grow by providing toys that are safe and fun. Children at different ages enjoy different kinds of toys.