

A Reward or a BRIBE?

Kimo and Makana have two boys, ages 10 and 14. They are having a difficult time getting the boys to help around the house. Read their conversation and find out: What are they planning to do?

Kimo: I'm so tired of asking Kam and Tasama to do their tasks. They never do anything. They say they forgot or they were too busy with homework.

Makana: I know what you mean. Yesterday, I was so mad at Kam because he didn't make his bed that I almost hit him.

Kimo: Not a good idea! We've already discussed hitting the children, and neither of us believes that it's a good idea.

Makana: I know, but what else can we do?

Kimo: I asked my brother for his advice this morning. He suggested that we pay the children to work around the house.

Makana: What? Pay them for doing what they should do? Never!

Kimo: Well, that was what I thought. But my brother told me about a plan that has worked in other families.

Makana: How does it work? I'm willing to try almost anything.

Kimo: First we make a list of things that the boys have to do each day and during the week. You know, keep their room clean, make their beds, take out the trash, and so on. We put it on the refrigerator so everyone can see it.

Makana: OK, what next?

Kimo: Then we tell Kam and Tasama that they'll get a certain amount of money each week if they do all of their tasks. But if they don't do all of the tasks, then they'll get no money. Nothing at all.

Makana: Do you mean if the boys miss one task, they get no money?

Kimo: Right. Then they wouldn't have any money for going to the movies or buying comics or anything.

Makana: Well, I don't know. That plan seems like a bribe to me.

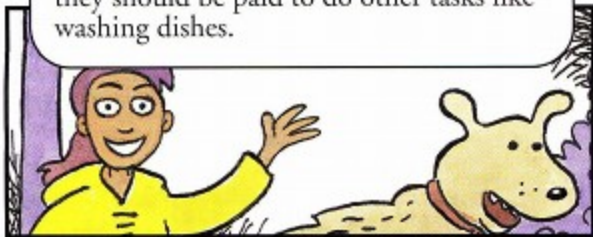
Kimo: Think of it as a reward!



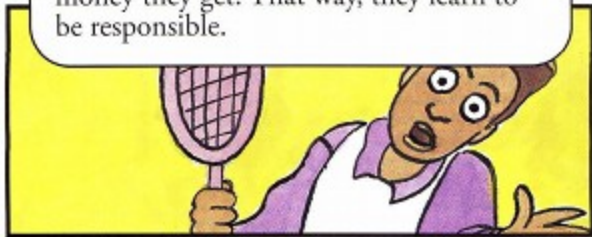
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which opinions do you agree with?
Check as many as you want.

Children should do some things for free, like cleaning their own room. But they should be paid to do other tasks like washing dishes.



Parents should pay their children to do housework. And that should be the only money they get. That way, they learn to be responsible.



Helping around the house is something children have to do. They shouldn't get paid for it.



Paying the children to do housework is a bribe. Don't do it. They'll start asking for money for everything.



Giving money for doing housework is a reward. Children need rewards for doing things.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 83 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

In your house, who does the following tasks?

cleaning the house
cleaning your room
laundry
washing dishes
shopping for food
taking out the trash

	me	my brother/sister	my mother	my father	my grandparent(s)
cleaning the house	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cleaning your room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
laundry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
washing dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
shopping for food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
taking out the trash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>