

Elementary Activity

Decisions, Decisions

This activity helps your child understand the importance of decision-making and practice a model for making decisions.

1. Explain to your child that everyone makes decisions every day. Many of us have trouble making decisions. Sometimes we make decisions by default – in other words, we take so long to decide that the decision is made for us.

Good decisions require thoughtfulness. Go over this model for making decisions with your child:

Decision-Making Model

1. Describe the problem
 2. Look at the options
 3. Think about the consequences of choosing each option (the pros and cons)
 4. Choose the best (most workable) option
 5. Act on the decision
 6. Evaluate the decision
2. Tell your child about your work and two decisions you made recently. Discuss the consequences of those decisions. Write the information in the space provided on the next page, **Decisions People Make**.
 3. Discuss decisions that teachers make and the consequences of their choices. Write that information in the space provided. For example, a teacher could assign easy math problems for homework. Consequences of the decision might be:
 - Your child has more time for other activities at home since easy problems take less time than hard ones.
 - Your child isn't ready for next year's math class if he does not have challenging homework.
 - Harder problems take longer to complete.
 4. Repeat this process using the other jobs listed; you can also select a job of your choice.
 5. Talk about what can be done when a decision results in negative consequences.
 6. Ask your child to think about two decisions he or she made recently. Add these decisions and the consequences of those decisions to the next page, **My Decisions**.
 7. Go back over the decision-making process. Select a decision that your child has to make now. Complete the process on the worksheet. Be sure to evaluate the decision afterward.

Decisions People Make

Your job: _____

Decisions you made recently.

1. _____ Consequences _____

2. _____ Consequences _____

Teachers

Decisions they make:

1. _____ Consequences _____

2. _____ Consequences _____

Automobile Mechanics

Decisions they make:

1. _____ Consequences _____

2. _____ Consequences _____

Doctors

Decisions they make:

1. _____ Consequences _____

2. _____ Consequences _____

Others (fill in): _____

Decisions they make:

1. _____ Consequences _____

My Decisions

Decisions I have made:

1. _____ Consequences _____

2. _____ Consequences _____

A decision I have to make now:

1. What is the problem?

2. What are my options?

Option #1: _____

Option #2: _____

Option #3: _____

Option #4: _____

3. What are the pros and cons of each option?

Option	Pros	Cons
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		

4. Which is the best option?

5. Make the decision.

6. Afterward, return to this worksheet. What were the consequences of your decision?
What would you do differently next time?

Adapted from

The Tool Kit, A Career Planning Resource for Families

(North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and NCSOICC)