

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Parent Resource

GRADES
3–5

What is responsible decision-making?

Responsible decision-making means thinking about all options and outcomes to make the best choice.

Did you know? People make about 35,000 decisions EVERY DAY!

In grades three through five, children begin or continue:

- ✓ Recognizing the importance of building friendships.
- ✓ Experiencing peer pressure.
- ✓ Gaining more responsibilities at home and school.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate responsible decision-making:

DISCUSS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Discuss a time when you had to take responsibility for your actions.

EXAMPLE

Your friend loaned you a special gift he received for his birthday. You damaged the gift and then needed to tell your friend.

TALK ABOUT CONSEQUENCES

Talk to your child about considering consequences before acting.

EXAMPLE

You had a group project but did not complete your portion of the assignment. The group received a lower grade as a result.

DESCRIBE BEING RESPONSIBLE

Describe ways your child can be responsible.

EXAMPLE

Keeping your room and other spaces at home tidy helps the whole family.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Discuss ways to take responsibility for one's actions.



Identify ways in which my decisions affect others.



DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION STARTERS

“Describe a decision you made today. What were the choices you considered, the possible outcomes and the actual outcome? Do you think it was a responsible decision? What were the pros and cons of your decision?”

“When planning for tomorrow, what are some decisions you know you will need to make at home and at school? What information will you need to make the best choices?”

AS YOUR CHILD GETS OLDER, HE OR SHE WILL HAVE TO MAKE MORE DECISIONS. TEACHING YOUR CHILD HOW TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS WILL HELP HIM OR HER BE PREPARED WHEN SITUATIONS ARISE AS A TEEN OR ADULT.