

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Parent Resource

DID YOU KNOW?

People make about 35,000 decisions **EVERY DAY!**

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

In grades three through five, children begin:

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

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.

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.

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? What were the possible outcomes? What was the outcome? Do you think that was a responsible decision? What were the pros and cons of your decision?

In planning ahead for tomorrow, what are some decisions you may need to make at school this week? At home? What information might you need to make the best choices?