

Decisions and Consequences



SPHE STRANDS:

Myself – Growing and changing
Myself and the Wider World –
Developing citizenship

Decisions

- Chat with the children about the decisions they have made so far today – getting up, what to eat for breakfast, where to sit in the car or on the bus, what to eat for lunch, who to chat to or play with, etc.
- Discuss which of these decisions only affect ourselves and which ones also affect others.
- Do all decisions have consequences? In what way?

Tricky Decisions

Divide the class into groups of four or five and Distribute a card with a scenario to each one. Allow five minutes for each group to discuss the scenarios under the following headings: What decision would you make? What would the consequences of that decision be?

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- Your mammy brings home a big bag of sweets from town and say you are to share them with your brother. But your brother is at his friend's house and won't be back till later. What will you do and what are the consequences?
- Your teacher says that if you don't have your homework signed by your parents she will give you extra homework the next night. You forgot to ask your dad to sign it before school and teacher will be looking at the journals in ten minutes. What will you do and what are the consequences?
- Your two best friends are making fun of another child and imitating him. They want you to join in. What will you do and what are the consequences?
- You are not allowed cross the main road to go to the shop, but your friend is. She asks you to come with her and says she won't tell anyone. What will you do and what are the consequences?
- You didn't learn your spellings last night and there is a test. You could balance your spelling book on your school bag and teacher might not notice. What will you do and what are the consequences?
- Your mam is not feeling well and the dishes are all stacked up on the counter. You know you should help but there is a really good TV programme coming on. What will you do and what are the consequences?

Have a class discussion about the importance of not only thinking of what you would like to do in a given situation, but also thinking about the consequences and how your decision might affect other people.

Song: There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly

Play this YouTube clip as a fun way to show that all of our decisions have consequences. The children may like to learn the song for themselves.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC_xO2aN_IA

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Art

Invite the children to illustrate the song 'There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly'.

Getting Advice

- Chat with the children about who they can turn for advice to when they are making a tricky decision.
- Ask them to think of examples of a time when they thought they should do one thing but someone advised them to do something else.
- Invite the children to tell the class a really good decision they made with good consequences.
- They may also have examples of a bad decision they made and how that worked out.
- Reiterate that there are friends and family members who can advise, as well as teachers and other adults the child trusts.

Reflection

Invite the children to close their eyes and read the following reflection:

Think back on all the decisions you made today: deciding to get up, what to eat for breakfast, whether to clean your teeth or not, what to put in your lunch box, where to sit in the car, who to play with in school, whether to work hard at your writing or be careless, whether to be nice to people or mean, whether to tell the truth or a lie.

We are all faced with these decisions every day. Sometimes they are small decisions with small consequences. But some of our decisions affect not only us, but others as well. We ask God's help with our decision-making. Help us to consider others. Help us to make good choices. And when we make poor choices, help us to apologise and to try again. Amen.