

Grades 2-4

CHARACTER EDUCATION

INSTRUCTION • ACTIVITIES • ASSESSMENT



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Character Education

Character Education introduces and develops the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will help students lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Students will consider what it means to be healthy—socially, mentally and emotionally—and will be given experiences to assist them to become responsible, caring members of society.

The book focuses on character building and values. Most experts agree that people with defined values and a good self-image are better equipped to deal with challenging situations. The activities encourage students to consider their own values and develop a sense of self-worth. It also focuses on the importance of showing respect for and tolerance towards others and valuing diversity in our society.

Character Education provides a comprehensive coverage of values content, supports teachers in planning and implementing lessons and, through collaborative learning and thoughtful discussion, promotes a lifelong commitment to a healthy value base.



Other titles in this series:

Character Education, Grades 4-6

Character Education, Grades 6-8

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Indicators

- Selects right and wrong decisions.
- Illustrates scenarios appropriately.

The Lesson**Discussion points:**

- What are some difficult decisions you have had to make?
- What are some easy decisions you have had to make?
- How do you know when a decision is right or wrong?
- How do you feel when you make the right decision?
- How do you feel when you make the wrong decision?
- What can make decisions hard to make? (peer influence)
- Who can you talk to about difficult decisions?

What to do:

- Read and discuss the opening sentences with the students.
- Selected students may read the scenarios to the class or you may read them.
- After each scenario, allow the students time to discuss and color the word yes or no.

Answers:

Answers will vary

Additional Activities

- Relate other scenarios orally to the students and allow them to make the decisions.
- Discuss times when parental permission must be gained before doing something.
- Discuss times when it may be okay to deviate from the rules.
- Read books where characters may need to make decisions.
- List ways of doing the right thing to protect the environment, such as picking up trash, recycling, and conserving water, flora and fauna.
- Students relate news articles which show people or companies doing the right or wrong thing.

Background Information

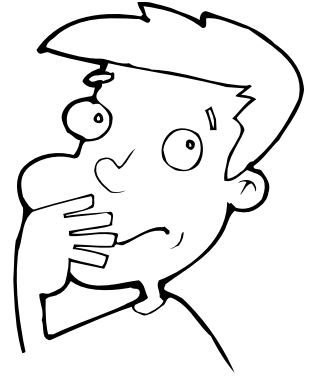
Children need to learn to think about whether something is right or wrong before making a choice. They need guidelines for making the right decisions, because sometimes deciding on the right choice may not be clear cut. To help children make the right decisions, they may find the following questions helpful to think about before making a decision:

- *Does it feel right? (What does your conscience say?)*
- *Can my decision hurt someone, including myself?*
- *Is it fair?*
- *Would I like it if someone did it to me?*
- *Have I been told not to do this because it is wrong?*
- *How do I really feel about it?*
- *Will I like myself later if I do this?*
- *What would my mom and dad say about it?*

Suggest to children that when a decision proves too difficult, it is a good idea to talk it over with someone they trust and respect.

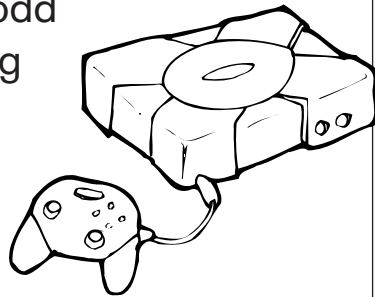
Doing the Right Thing

*Every day we have to make decisions.
Some decisions are easy and some are hard.
Deciding to do the right thing can sometimes be difficult.
Sometimes we need to think hard before deciding what
is the right thing to do.*



Read each story, then color yes or no to show if the right decision was made.

1 Sam and Todd were playing a computer game. They decided to take turns.



They made the right decision.

yes **no**

2 Amanda asked her friend, Sasha, to come to her house after school to play. They walked straight to Amanda's house after school.

They made the right decision.

yes **no**

3 Aleisha had to go with her mom to visit her mom's friend, Sarah. Aleisha didn't like Sarah's daughter, so she sulked and was nasty all through the visit.

She made the right decision.

yes **no**

4 Kamal and Luke found a Gameboy™ when they were bike riding. They decided to take it home and keep it.

They made the right decision.

yes **no**

5 Josh went to Ben's birthday party. There was a lot of food and Josh ate too much. When it was time to eat the birthday cake, Josh asked if he could take his home to eat later.

He made the right decision.

yes **no**

