

# CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES

LESSON + ACTIVITIES



# CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Students will identify positive and negative consequences of different choices.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES/BEHAVIORS:**  
Demonstrate critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions;  
Gather evidence and consider multiple perspectives to make informed decisions; Demonstrate ethical decision making and social responsibility

## OUTLINE:

- Watch and discuss Kid President's "Making Tough Choices"
- Kid President said we make thousands of choices every day. What choices have you already made today?
- Kid President said there are four choices we make every day. What were they?
  - Impulsive: What does this mean?
  - Do Nothing: He said "If you don't know what to do, do nothing." What does that mean?
  - Follower: He said to "follow the leader." What does that mean?
  - Be Thoughtful: He said to "follow what others are doing." What does that mean?

**MATERIALS:** Kid President Making Tough Choices video OR Chutes and Ladders board, puzzles and/or "I Have, Who Has" cards and/or fill-in-the-blank sheets, exit tickets

**CASEL DOMAINS:** Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making

## OUTLINE:

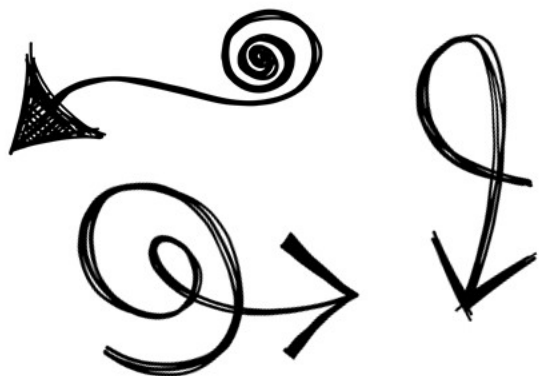
- What's an example of a small choice and its consequence?
- Alternate hook idea: Show and discuss the (Hasbro™) game board (the bottom of the chutes show negative choices and the top of the ladders show positive choices). Usually when adults talk about consequences, there are good consequences too! What's a good choice and its consequence? What about brushing your teeth? What about helping your sister get ready for school?
- Activity Options:
  - Whole Group: I Have, Who Has
  - Small Groups: Match choice to consequence (two pieces of paper)
  - OR scenario to consequences (four piece puzzles)
  - Whole Group, Small Group, or Individual: Write in complete sentences about choices and consequences.
  - Whole Group, Small Group, or Individual: Fill in the blank exit ticket to identify personal choices and consequences.

# **"I Have Who Has"**

Hand out ALL of the cards (some students may have more than one). Instruct the student whose card says "I have the first card!" to begin. Students listen carefully for someone's "Who has" choice to match their own "I have" consequence. Encourage students to flip their cards over after they've gone so as you're monitoring/helping, you can more quickly check remaining cards to see if they're next.



# CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES



What would  
happen if...?

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What would  
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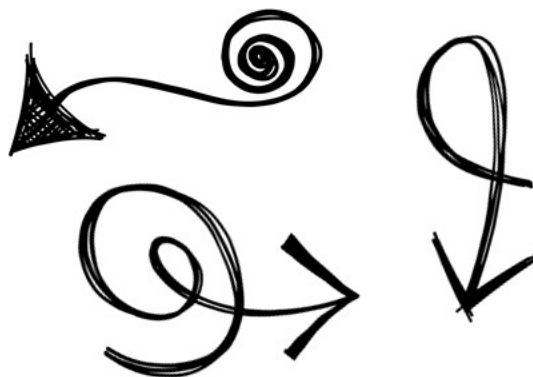
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What would  
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What would  
happen if...?

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I HAVE...

The first card!

WHO HAS...

A consequence for  
admitting when  
you've made a  
mistake?

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I HAVE...

You can fix your  
mistake and adults  
will trust you in the  
future.

WHO HAS...

A consequence for  
missing lots of  
school?

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I HAVE...

You will miss out on  
important learning  
and fall way  
behind.

WHO HAS...

A consequence for  
reading at home  
every night?

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I HAVE...

You will become a  
better reader.

WHO HAS...

A consequence for  
making fun of  
someone's shoes?

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# Fill in the Blank

Can project and fill out whole group, give small groups one copy to complete collaboratively, or give students their own to do. Put in sheet protectors/dry erase pockets for repeated use!

# Choices + Consequences

## CHOICE

## CONSEQUENCE

Telling the truth about something you did.

People you're +

Getting distracted by your classmates during work time.

Deep breathing and positive thinking when you're upset.

## CHOICE

Doing your homework every night.

Deciding an assignment is boring and not doing it.

Your part pro

You miss out important learning time.

# Two Piece Puzzles

(choice →  
consequence)

Print one set for each small group.

Teacher/counselor selects which puzzles to use  
if time won't allow for groups to complete all 30.

May also give each group a different set and  
have them rotate.



**CHOICE:**  
Making jokes  
during the  
teacher's  
lesson.

**CONSEQUENCE:**  
Your  
classmates will  
be distracted  
from their  
learning.

**CHOICE:**  
Thinking about  
what the  
teacher is  
saying.

**CONSEQUENCE:**  
You will  
understand  
what the  
teacher is  
teaching you.

**CHOICE:**  
Not asking  
questions when  
you're confused  
in math.

**CONSEQUENCE:**  
You won't  
understand the  
math and will have  
a hard time on the  
assignment.



# **Four Piece Puzzles SCENARIOS**

Print one set for each small group. Students work together  
to match consequences to each scenario.

Mya wants people to think she's funny so she called James a cry baby after he cried when he failed a math test.

James is embarrassed and sad.

People think Mya is mean and don't want to be her friend.

Mya feels ashamed.

After his teacher gave the class their assignment, Tyler loudly said "This is boring" and didn't do it.

Tyler's teacher feels disrespected.

Tyler gets a bad grade and doesn't learn as much.

People think Tyler has a bad attitude.

# **What are the consequences? SCENARIOS**

Can project and fill out whole group, give small groups one copy to complete collaboratively, or give students their own to do. Put in sheet protectors/dry erase pockets for repeated use!



# WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

*Read each scenario and write three consequences of the choice made.*

Mya wants people to think she's funny so she called James a cry baby after he cried when he failed a math test.

1

2

3

After his teacher gave the class their assignment, Tyler loudly said "This is boring" and didn't do it.

1

2

3

PREVIEW  
(4 scenarios included)

# Exit Tickets

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

What is one GOOD choice  
you made this week?

What was a consequence  
of that choice?

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

What is one GOOD choice  
you made this week?

What was a consequence  
of that choice?

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

What is one GOOD choice  
you made this week?

What was a consequence  
of that choice?

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

What is one GOOD choice  
you made this week?

What was a consequence  
of that choice?

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What is one NOT SO GOOD  
choice you made this week?

What was a consequence  
of that choice?

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# the RESPONSIVE counselor



Hi, I'm Sara! I create resources for elementary students, counselors, and teachers that improve social emotional learning and help students be their best selves. My focus is creating resources that are *effective* (using research-based best practices) and *engaging* (through collaborative learning and relevant scenarios) for all types of learners and populations.



## Education

B.A. from Michigan State University  
Psychology and Anthropology

M.S. from Vanderbilt University  
Community, Research, and Action

M.Ed. From Vanderbilt University  
Human Development Counseling:  
School Counseling and  
Clinical Mental Health

## Experience

I'm a school counselor from a large southeastern school district with a wonderfully diverse group of students. I created and implemented a data-based comprehensive school counseling program while helping classroom teachers and administrators implement schoolwide SEL and restorative practices. Now, I also share my ideas and resources to reach students and help educators across the world!

Let's  
Connect:

