

Lesson Plan  
Decision Making  
Activity 1

Tell students: We are going to learn how to think about a problem before making a choice.

Ask: How many of you have made choices before you thought about it and later got in trouble? (If there isn't a response, give an example of making any decision without thinking about it, such as leaving school with friends before thinking about what could happen.) In this activity, we'll learn to think before we do something.

Activity 1: Pass out the "Decision-Making Three-Step Model" handout and explain to the students. On your activity sheet, we have a girl and a boy who are both in elementary school. Let's have everyone read the story.

Reflection: Ask:

- What are the three steps of making a good decision?
- Explain how using this model worked for Jeff.
- What would have happened if Jeff had not used the model?
- Why is it important to think before we act?
- Predict what kind of trouble he could have gotten into had he not followed the model.

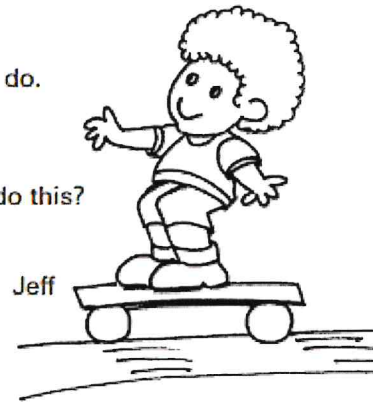
# ACTIVITY 1

## DECISION-MAKING THREE-STEP MODEL



Susan

1. **THINK**—about what they are asking you to do.
2. **ASK QUESTIONS**—ask why, when, what?
3. **ASK YOURSELF**—will I get into trouble if I do this?



Jeff

"Hi, Jeff, do you want to go have some fun?"

"Just come with me."

"Don't you trust me?"

"See that blue car? We're going to ride with one of my sister's friends."

"I know, but her friends are cool."

"Are you chicken? I told you that my sister's friends are cool. Anyway, my sister had to go to work and they will pick her up later. We can have a lot of fun. Are you coming?"

"So what? They like me. They want us to have fun with them, so come on."

"Yes, doing what?"

"I will, but where will we go?"

"Yes, OK, let's go."

"Your sister isn't in the car."

"I don't think that we should go if your sister isn't in there."

"I see three boys from the high school and two girls, too."

"No thanks. I think I'll stay here."

## **Decision Making**

### **Lesson Plan**

#### **Activity 2**

#### **The Puppy Problem**

##### **Read the following Story to the Class:**

Ned was on his way home from school one day when he heard a sound behind him. When he turned to look, he saw a little puppy with floppy ears and big feet. The puppy seemed to be following Ned. It grinned and wagged its tail when Ned picked it up.

Ned's mom liked the puppy and wanted to keep it too, but she told Ned he would have to ask everyone in the neighborhood if the puppy belonged to them before he could keep it. Ned went to all the houses, but no one had ever seen the puppy. Ned took the puppy home and built a little bed for him right next to his own bed. For two weeks Ned and the puppy were great friends, running and playing tag and hide-and-seek together. Ned was very happy because he'd always wanted a dog of his own. The puppy was happy because he loved Ned. He had plenty of food to eat and his own bed at night. One day Ned put the leash on his puppy and took him to the park. They were running through the park when a little girl about Ned's age came running up to him. "Wow! That's my puppy. You've found my puppy. I lost him when we moved here two weeks ago. I've been so sad without him." Just then the puppy jumped happily up against the little girl. Ned and the little girl both kept pulling frantically on the leash trying to take the puppy away from each other. The puppy seemed to like them both very much.

- 1. THINK—about what they are asking you to do.**
- 2. ASK QUESTIONS—ask why, when, what?**
- 3. ASK YOURSELF—will I get into trouble if I do this?**

##### **Reflection Questions for Students to Complete**

1. What are some of your ideas for solving the problem? Why?
2. How do you think the three-step decision-making model could help you?
3. What happens when you don't consider consequences before committing yourself to doing something?
4. If you make a mistake and discover you don't want to be involved in a current activity, what should you do?
5. What makes it difficult to withdraw from an activity you have agreed to do?
6. List why the choice to continue with an activity you feel is not a wise choice is sometimes easier than upsetting your friends.
7. Is it difficult to persuade your friends not to do something you feel is not wise?
8. Debate whether "they made me do it" is a good excuse for having participated in an unwise activity.
9. Who is responsible for your decisions and consequences? Why?

**Role Playing Time!** (Ask for volunteers to role-play the scenarios listed below. The object of the activity is to get students to use the three-step model to make decisions so that they will not get into trouble.)

- a. Ted and Sue: Ted wants Sue to go to the park with him after dark.
- b. Shirley and Tiffany: Shirley wants Tiffany to let her borrow her homework because she watched television until midnight and did not do her homework last night.
- c. Shane and Shaunda: Shane wants Shaunda to call her on the phone tonight after her parents are in bed. She knows that neither one is allowed on the phone after 8 p.m.
- d. Matt, Shannon, and Fred: Matt and Shannon are trying to get Fred to drink a beer.
- e. Linda and Dolores: Linda hates to clean her room. When Dolores came over to play, Linda asked Dolores if she would clean her room for her.
- f. Kerri and Anne: Kerri hates two other girls. She wants Anne to help her beat them up.
- g. Andy and Ramos: Andy is in the third grade, but Ramos is in the fifth grade. Andy plays with Ramos. Ramos' older brother smokes cigarettes.
- h. Alice and Faye: Alice saw Faye take papers from another student's folder without asking. When it was time to do work, that student asked if anyone saw someone take his papers.
- i. Ruth, Sharon, and Robert: While the class was on a field trip visiting the science building, Robert asked Ruth and Sharon to go with him across the street to McDonald's. The teacher had told everyone to stay together.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Decision Making

### Activity 2

#### The Puppy Problem

**Read the following Story and answer the questions below in complete sentences:**

Ned was on his way home from school one day when he heard a sound behind him. When he turned to look, he saw a little puppy with floppy ears and big feet. The puppy seemed to be following Ned. It grinned and wagged its tail when Ned picked it up.

Ned's mom liked the puppy and wanted to keep it too, but she told Ned he would have to ask everyone in the neighborhood if the puppy belonged to them before he could keep it. Ned went to all the houses, but no one had ever seen the puppy. Ned took the puppy home and built a little bed for him right next to his own bed. For two weeks Ned and the puppy were great friends, running and playing tag and hide-and-seek together. Ned was very happy because he'd always wanted a dog of his own. The puppy was happy because he loved Ned. He had plenty of food to eat and his own bed at night. One day Ned put the leash on his puppy and took him to the park. They were running through the park when a little girl about Ned's age came running up to him. "Wow! That's my puppy. You've found my puppy. I lost him when we moved here two weeks ago. I've been so sad without him." Just then the puppy jumped happily up against the little girl. Ned and the little girl both kept pulling frantically on the leash trying to take the puppy away from each other. The puppy seemed to like them both very much.

#### **3 STEP DECISION MAKING MODEL**

- 1. THINK—about what they are asking you to do.**
- 2. ASK QUESTIONS—ask why, when, what?**
- 3. ASK YOURSELF—will I get into trouble if I do this?**

1. What are some of your ideas for solving the problem? Why?
2. How do you think the three-step decision-making model could help you?

3. What happens when you don't consider consequences before committing yourself to doing something?
  
4. If you make a mistake and discover you don't want to be involved in a current activity, what should you do?
  
5. What makes it difficult to withdraw from an activity you have agreed to do?
  
6. List why the choice to continue with an activity you feel is not a wise choice is sometimes easier than upsetting your friends.
  
7. Is it difficult to persuade your friends not to do something you feel is not wise?
  
8. Debate whether "they made me do it" is a good excuse for having participated in an unwise activity.
  
9. Who is responsible for your decisions and consequences? Why?

