



RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

The abilities to make caring and positive choices about personal behavior, social interactions, safety issues and ethical standards across various settings.

I CAN MAKE SMART CHOICES.

SEL Academic Integrated Strategies

Pre-K-6 Integrated SEL Strategies Responsible Decision-Making

- Routinely model good decision-making.
- Support students through the steps of decision making anytime they face a choice or decision.
- Give students authentic feedback for making good decisions.
- Create, agree to, and help students understand logical consequences, discussing them frequently and whenever appropriate.
- Allow students to choose where they would like to sit during quiet reading.

Pre-K-6 STEM SEL Strategies Responsible Decision-Making

- Give students authentic, specific, and timely feedback for making good decisions so they can reproduce the action in another context.
- Support students through the steps of decision making anytime they face a choice or decision. Simple choices like “Which tool should I use to measure this angle?” or “Do I need a calculator for this problem?” are good places to start.
- Have students make a list of possible tools to reach the learning target before they start working on a specific math problem.
- Encourage students to reflect on how they approached mathematics “today,” including in journals or pair shares. Ask them to include how their choices could be repeated if successful or improved to be more successful.
- Use graphic representations to illustrate decisions (flow chart, relationship of decisions over time) or translate decision chains into symbolic expressions (goals + patience = success... $\square + \triangleright = \bigcirc$; older students may use variables, e.g., $X + Y = Z$).
- Use context-based problems to practice decision-making. Lessons that include budgets, scaling recipes for uncertain numbers of guests, and other such open-ended problems are useful.
- Use simple data analysis (in graphs and tables) to examine larger-scale and ethical situations such as the amount of paper waste in the neighborhood or how much money is spent on electronics every year.

Pre-K-6 Healthy Lifestyles SEL Strategies Responsible Decision-Making

- Teach and routinely practice using the STAR (Stop, Think, Act, and Review) decision-making process with students.
- Stress the importance of telling an adult when they observe or experience bullying including cyber-bullying.

Pre-K-6 Humanities SEL Strategies Responsible Decision-Making

- As a class, identify community helpers who can help if you don't feel safe.
- Talk with students about the difference between a stranger, acquaintance, and friend.
- Walk through the steps of problem-solving in response to situations in stories.
- Ask students to apply the decision-making formula to problems characters face in books or stories.
- Teach students vocabulary words such as honesty, responsibility, and perseverance and the relationship to social and academic behaviors.
- Read stories to students in which characters have made a choice or decision, and discuss the consequences, both positive and negative.