

Three lessons on decision making
for elementary ages (3rd-5th grade)



Wyatt the Wonder Dog Books

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Lesson Plan—Decision Making

Grade Level: 3-5

ASCA National Standard Domain: Academic

A. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills contributing to effective learning in school and across the lifespan

B. Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Define the words: decision making
- Give examples of situations where they made a decision and the steps they used
- Re-frame the concept of mistakes or failure as learning and growing
- Identify trial and error as necessary steps in successful decision making

Essential Question: What is decision making and why is it important? What are the steps to successful decision making?

Lesson:

- Discuss: What does it mean to make a decision? What are some decisions that you made today? What is a hard decision that you have made? Do you always make the right decision? How do you decide if a decision is right or wrong? What does trial and error mean? How do you learn from decision making? What are some steps to help with decision making?
- Read: *What do you do with an idea?* by Kobi Yamada, or *Peep!: A Little Book about Taking a Leap* by Maria Van Lieshout, or *A Special Thank You: Junior Discovers Integrity (Life Lessons with Junior)* by Dave Ramsey
 - Identify and discuss what decisions the main character made. What steps did they follow to make the decision? Was it the right decision? How could you tell? What are the consequences of their decision?
- Teach the Six Thinking Hats Technique: Look at the decision from 6 different points of view (Youtube video: <https://youtu.be/UZ8vF8HRWE4>)
 - White hat: Logical-What are the facts?

- Red hat: Emotional/Intuitive- How do you feel about the decision? What is your gut feeling?
- Black hat: Critical- What is your judgment about the decision? What could go wrong?
- Yellow hat: Opportunity/Optimistic- What could go well? What is the benefit of the decision?
- Green hat: Growth/Creativity- What can you imagine about the decision? What can you learn from the decision?
- Blue hat: Management/Perspective- Think about all the different hats, which do you want to emphasize? How do you want to manage the different perspectives and use the information to make a decision?

- **Activity:**

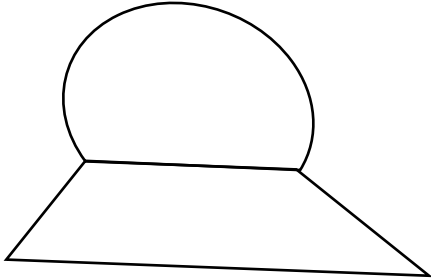
- Have students identify a decision they need to make. Use the Six Hat Tool to think through the decision. Determine the decision they think will be best. Share their insights with a partner or the class.

Materials:

- *What do you do with an idea?* by Kobi Yamada, or
- *Peep!: A Little Book about Taking a Leap* by Maria Van Lieshout, or
- *A Special Thank You: Junior Discovers Integrity (Life Lessons with Junior)* by Dave Ramsey
- Paper and markers

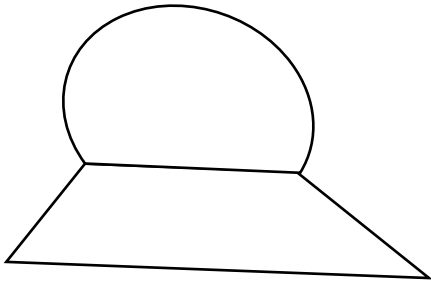
Six Hat Tool

Color each hat and fill in how it will help you make a decision.



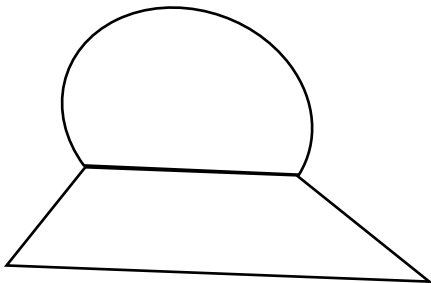
White hat: Logical

What are the facts?



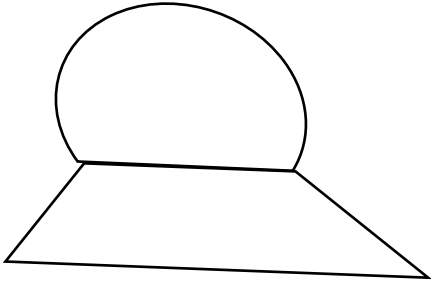
Red hat: Feelings

How do you feel?



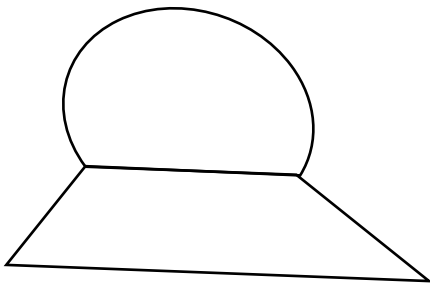
Black hat: Critical

What could go wrong?



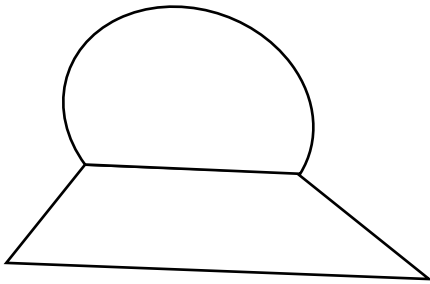
Yellow hat: Opportunity

What could go well?



Green hat: Growth

What could you learn from the decision?



Blue hat: Perspective

How will you use the information to make a decision?

What hat will you emphasize?

Lesson Plan—Decision Making and Core Values

Grade Level: 3-5

ASCA National Standard Domain: Academic

A. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills contributing to effective learning in school and across the lifespan

B. Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Define the words: decision making
- Give examples of situations where they made a decision and the steps they used
- Re-frame the concept of mistakes or failure as learning and growing
- Identify trial and error as necessary steps in successful decision making

Essential Question: What is decision making and why is it important? Who are role models that you can look up to? What are values that are important to follow? What if following a rule and a value conflict... what do you do?

Lesson:

- Discuss: What does it mean to make a decision? What are some decisions that you have made today? What is a hard decision that you have made? Do you always make the right decision? How do you decide if a decision is right or wrong? What does trial and error mean? How do you learn from decision making? What are some steps to help with decision making?
- Read: *Kate and the Beanstalk* by Mary Pope Osborne or *A Special Thank You: Junior Discovers Integrity (Life Lessons with Junior)* by Dave Ramsey or *CinderEdna* by Ellen Jackson
 - Identify and discuss what decisions the main character made. Was it the right decision? How could you tell? What are the consequences of their decision? What values were important to them? Did they have role models to follow?
- Identify some role models that students can look up to
- Identify values that the role models follow.

- Discuss some decisions that students need to make and how they can incorporate role models and values in decision making.

- **Activity:**
 - Have students identify a decision they need to make. Next have them identify a role model and a value that could be helpful in making the decision. Have students answer the question: What would my role model do and what values would they demonstrate? Share their ideas with a partner or the class.

Materials:

- *Kate and the Beanstalk* by Mary Pope Osborne or
- *A Special Thank You: Junior Discovers Integrity (Life Lessons with Junior)* by Dave Ramsey or
- *CinderEdna* by Ellen Jackson

Core Values Chart

peacefulness	orderly	courageous	achievement	stability
tolerance	knowledge	creativity	self-acceptance	community
power	family	integrity	honesty	spiritual growth
respectful	helping	perseverance	fairness	adventure
harmony	security	friendship	competence	self-control
forgiveness	teamwork	personal growth	belonging	recognition
prosperity	authority	advancement	health	friendly
dependability	generous	reliable	loyalty	open minded
consistent	innovation	compassion	positivity	optimism
fitness	education	patriotism	service to others	environmentalism
acceptance	appreciation	citizenship	consideration	cooperation
empathy	gratitude	helpfulness	kindness	responsibility
service				

Lesson Plan—Decision Making and *being* a role model

Grade Level: 3-5

ASCA National Standard Domain: Academic

A. Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills contributing to effective learning in school and across the lifespan

B. Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Objectives: The student will be able to:

- Define the words: decision making
- Re-frame decision making as an opportunity to be a role model for others

Essential Questions: What is decision making and why is it important? Who are role models that you can look up to? How can you be a role model for others?

Lesson:

- Discuss: What does it mean to make a decision? What does it mean to be a role model? Who might you be a role model for?
 - Read: ***Hunter's Best Friend at School*** by Laura Malone Elliott
 - Hunter's mother teaches him a great life lesson when she says, "*Sometimes being a best friend means you have to help your friend be his best self.*" What does she mean?
 - Identify and discuss what decisions the main character made. Was it the right decision? How could you tell? What are the consequences of their decision? Who is Hunter a role model for?
- Identify who students can be role models for.
- Identify values the role models might follow.
- Discuss some decisions that students need to make and how they are role models to others in decision making.

- **Activity:**

- Have students identify a decision they need to make. Next have them identify who they are a role model to. Review the values chart and determine a value that could be helpful in making the decision. Have students answer the question: What will my decision and my behavior teach others? What values will I be modeling for others? Share their ideas with a partner or the class.

Materials:

- *Hunter's Best Friend at School* by Laura Malone Elliott
- Values chart

Core Values Chart

peacefulness	orderly	courageous	achievement	stability
tolerance	knowledge	creativity	self-acceptance	community
power	family	integrity	honesty	spiritual growth
respectful	helping	perseverance	fairness	adventure
harmony	security	friendship	competence	self-control
forgiveness	teamwork	personal growth	belonging	recognition
prosperity	authority	advancement	health	friendly
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