

Thoughts about decision making

Standard 4.1, d

Stop and think before you act!

Because children lack experience and perspective, they tend to make decisions that are rash, egocentric, and short-sighted

Making poor decisions and experiencing the consequences helps children learn how to make better decisions in the future. If parents/carers don't hold them responsible for their poor decisions, instead, bailing them out of the trouble their bad decision brings. These children learn that they aren't responsible for their decisions and can continue to do things without fear of consequences.

With young children a good way to practice early decision making and independence is by asking them to choose from a selection. For example; would you like orange juice, apple juice or milk to drink? This way you can guide children in the right direction but still allow them to assert themselves and practice making decisions.

As your children get older, expand the number of choices you give them. Then, increase the importance of the decisions they can make, for example, when they decide to go to bed. With each decision, they should recognize and take responsibility for the consequences of those decisions. For example, staying up later means it is harder to get up in the morning as you are tired.