IDEA #42

Good Choice, Bad Choice

OVERVIEW: Children play a game in which they learn to distinguish between good and bad choices.

PREPARATION/MATERIALS:
- two chairs, positioned back-to-back
- drawing paper
- chalkboard or other area to display team scores

Cut out two faces — one smiling and one frowning — and tape one to each chair before the activity.

PROCEDURE:

Tell the children: *We are going to play a game called “Good Choice, Bad Choice.” I am going to read some statements that require you to make choices. When I read a statement, the first person in each line should race to either the “happy” chair (if it’s a good decision), or the “sad” chair (if it’s a bad decision).*

*The object of the game is to try to make the right decision and reach the right chair before the other person does.*

Divide the class equally into two rows, one on each side of the classroom. In the middle of the room place two chairs, one with a “happy face” for good decisions, and the other with a “frowning face” for bad decisions. Explain that the first student from each row will start the game. When you read the statement (from the “Good Choice/Bad Choice” activity sheet), the two students will decide if it is a good decision or a bad decision, then race to the appropriate chair. Each player who reaches the correct chair first earns one point for his or her team. Keep score on the chalkboard as the game progresses.

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Idea #42 Activity Sheet: Good Choice, Bad Choice

Using the instructions from Idea #21, read the following choices aloud. Say: You make a choice to . . .

1. Take your classmate’s pencil without asking.
2. Tell your teacher if you notice that she dropped her wallet.
3. Go outside to play without asking your parents.
4. Tell your teacher if you see someone stealing from her purse.
5. Play with matches with your friends.
6. Watch TV and avoid your reading lesson.
7. Walk away when someone tries to start a fight with you.
8. Get mad at your mother because she won’t buy you a new toy.
9. Talk to your parents in a nice way.
10. Skip class and hide out in the gym.
11. Work hard every day to make good grades.
12. Go play with your friends even though your mom asked you to clean your room.
13. Tell your parents a lie so they will not go to the PTA meeting.
14. Always say that you can’t do anything right.
15. Stand up for yourself.
16. Call your friends ugly and stupid.
17. Take your friend’s lunch and secretly eat the cookies.
18. Stay up late after your parents have told you to go to bed.
19. Kick the dog.
20. Tell your parents you love them.