

Avoid A YES Mess

Recognizing that every choice has a consequence, either positive or negative, is a behavior needed for **responsible decision-making**. As you introduce students to the practice of thinking through potential consequences—using the Yes Mess questions—be sure to model your own responsible decision-making skills by thinking aloud for students when making choices. Show kids how to make a good choice by teaching them how to **Avoid A YES Mess**.




Skill Builder

Avoid A YES Mess

1. Could anyone including me get hurt if I do this?
2. Could I get into trouble if I get caught doing this?
3. Could anything bad happen if I make this choice?

A YES answer means you are in a YES Mess!



Make choices that are best for you

If you can answer YES to any of the YES Mess questions, you are in a **YES Mess**. That means that you are not making the best choice.

Every choice you make has a consequence. A consequence is something that can happen as a result of a choice that was made.



Teaching Prompt

Tell me about a time you got into a YES Mess

Think of a negative choice you made today. What could you have done differently?

What is a positive choice you made today?

What is a choice you made today that supported someone else?

Avoid A YES MESS



Example

You make the choice to do your homework. The consequences might be: your teacher knows you did the work, you practiced what you learned the day before, and you get points for completing it.

You make the choice NOT to do your homework, the consequences are: you haven't practiced what you learned the day before, your teacher is going to be disappointed, and you might have to miss other activities to complete your work.



Key Points

If any of the consequences of your choices will be negative or bad, then the choice is probably not the best one.

If all the possible consequences of your choices will be good or positive, then the choice is probably the right one.

Praise & Model

As you introduce students to the practice of thinking through potential consequences, using the Yes Mess questions, be sure to model your own responsible decision-making skills by thinking aloud for students when making choices.

Give students a scenario then ask open-ended questions to see how they respond: "What are the potential consequences if _____?"

Follow up to see if they can decide whether or not it is a Yes Mess.

If you notice students pausing to think about their choices, or they tell you about a good choice they made, acknowledge it! Praise them for thinking through their decision and talk about the positive outcome of their decision.