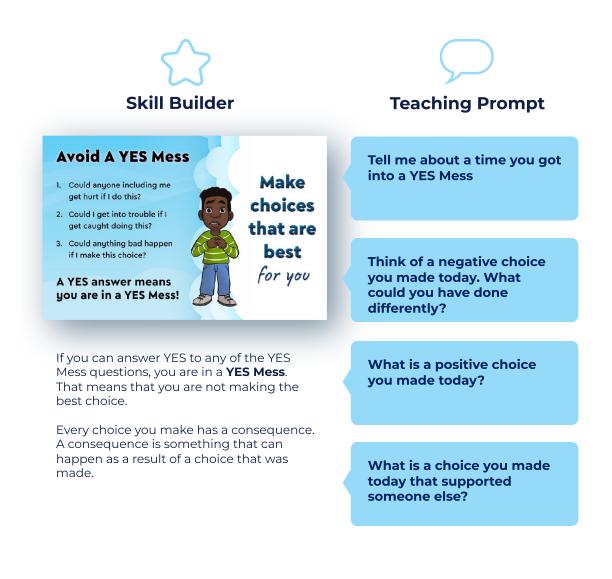


RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING | SKILL BUILDERS Avoid A YES Mess

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**.



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.