



First Choices: Teaching Children Aged 4-8 to Make Positive Decisions about Their Own Lives (Lucky Duck Books)

Margaret Collins

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Includes CD-Rom

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'Nothing is so exhausting as indecision, and nothing is so futile' - *Bertrand Russell*

.. and teachers, parents and carers worry that the decisions that children and young people make might be unwise or dangerous.

Decision making is a skill involving both a cognitive and an affective process. The ability to:

" recognize the thoughts and feelings;

" consider the consequences;

" choose the best outcome;

is a highly valued facility leading to resilience, achievement and responsibility. The skill can be taught and in these three volumes the authors provide all the materials needed to teach a course on decision making at each age level.

The programme provides a menu of stories related to the real life experiences of the young people. Topics are selected to be age appropriate and the series includes:

" Stealing;

" Lying;

" Social behaviours;

" Risks;

" Justice;

" Loss,Grief and Bereavement;

" Prejudice;

" First love;

" Disability;

" Leaving home;

" Family relationships.

The teacher notes indicate 'stopping points' where reflection and discussion is encouraged. A choice of endings is offered or the young people can develop their own ideas about what might happen next.

The course can be introduced at any age or used to develop the skills through school life from early years to the teens.

'The need to work with children to help them understand the complexity of the place and the relationships within which they are growing up is greater than ever. This programme of stories, developed through Circle Time, gives a clear and challenging context for this work to develop' - *Support For Learning*

'You'd be hard pushed to find a better decision making programme than this excellent set of books... This series will undoubtedly kick-start conversation, prod thinking and stimulate classroom debate' - *Times Educational Supplement Magazine*

Margaret Collins is a former headteacher of infant and first schools. She is now Senior Visiting Fellow in the School of Education at the University of Southampton. She researches children's perceptions of health education topics, writes teaching materials for children, books and articles on PSHE.

Other books in the series include Tina Rae's Good Choices and Phil Carradice's Life Choices

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