



## THE DOMINO EFFECT

### Think about the future when making decisions.

When managers of a business make decisions, they have to think about the consequences. Every big decision that is made can have a domino effect on the future. For example, if a business decided to charge too much for a product, then it's possible that this may lead to lower sales—and lower sales may lead to making less money.

#### Teach kids to develop good decision-making skills.

**Ask kids:** Help kids understand the importance of making good decisions by discussing scenarios and their possible outcomes. Ask: What are some of your future goals and dreams? What would happen to those goals if you didn't stay in school? Also discuss the domino effects of what would happen if kids decided not to do their homework, not to be kind to everyone, and so on.

#### Give kids opportunities to make their own decisions.

To help kids build decision-making skills that will benefit them as they get older, provide them with opportunities to make decisions now. For example, let kids decide which webisode they want to watch. Or let kids choose club officers: president, secretary, treasurer, and so on. Spend time talking about the decisions.

#### Activities:

1. Pose these situations and ask kids how they would respond. You may wish to have them write down their answers anonymously and give them to you so you can read them aloud. (A) Your friend forgot to do his math homework and wants to copy yours. You want to help him, but don't want to get in trouble. What should you do? (B) A classmate has been teasing your friend online. You want to tell a trusted adult, but are afraid the bully will pick on you next. What should you do?
2. Have kids keep a list of money-saving decisions for a month. Ask for volunteers to read and explain their lists. Discuss the decisions, their possible outcomes, and how the decision-maker feels about his or her choices.

**Tip:** Model good decision-making skills during your meetings. Talk about your decisions as you make them, along with possible resulting domino effects. For example, "I would like to watch a second webisode today, but then we wouldn't have time to discuss the first one. You wouldn't have the opportunity to ask questions and express your ideas, so we might move on without really learning some important lessons."

