

How do we know what is right and wrong?

Moral Choice Scenarios

1. You are with 4 friends and one of them wants to climb over a fence into a building site to play. The others agree. What do you do?
2. You believe your friend is being bullied, but when you ask him/her, they say there is nothing wrong and they are fine. You suggest talking to a teacher but your friend says no. What would you do?
3. You break a mobile phone belonging to your mum/dad/grandma. They believe your younger sibling did it. What do you do?
4. A girl is taken to a carnival by her dad. It is her tenth birthday and he's promised her that she can choose any 5 rides. But as they approach the gate, he discovers that he's forgotten his wallet. This is the last day of the carnival and it's too far to go home and come back before it closes. He counts the change in his pockets and tells his daughter that he has enough money to pay the entrance fee and they can go inside and look at all the exhibits and the parade, but there wouldn't be any money for rides, OR she could lie about her age and say she was five and get in for half-price, which would leave enough money for the 5 rides. They walk to the gate and the ticket seller asks the girl, "How old are you?" What should she say? What would you do in this situation? Why? (from www.p4c.com)
5. You are spending the afternoon with a friend of yours who isn't very popular. You run into a group of your friends who invite you to go to a movie but they say that your unpopular friend can't come. What is the right thing to do? (from www.p4c.com)

6. You are in an art class at school. The teacher tells the class that today each student is to paint a painting of their best friend in the class. The class is uncomfortable with this, and one student points out to the teacher that some kids will have lots of kids painting them, and other kids won't be chosen at all. The teacher insists that this is what the students should do. Almost all of the students don't want to do this. What should you do? Is it disrespectful to disagree with your teacher? With your parents? Your friends? Can you disagree and still be respectful? (from www.p4c.com)
7. There's a new kid at school who hardly talks and seems to look at the ground a lot. The other kids laugh at him, and they expect you to laugh with them. You know this child needs a friend, but if you become his friend, the other kids might not be your friends anymore. What will you do?
8. You're throwing a ball in the house and break your mom's favourite table decoration. Mom hears the crash and comes running to see what happened. If you tell the truth, you know you will be punished. You could say you accidentally bumped the table. What will you do?

NB

Try to leave the discussion to the children without offering a 'correct' answer.

Encourage a space where children can say what they think rather than saying what they think you want to hear.

Try to encourage the children to explore all options from all perspectives.

You could finish the session with a vote on what they would do (preferably an anonymous vote).

For school based scenarios, you could include school policies and explain why they exist.

As part of these discussions you could raise conversation about the relationship between honesty and trust. (It's hard to be honest if you believe that by being so you will get into trouble or be laughed at. What's the responsibility of the people involved eg child/adult when you are asked to tell the truth).