Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.

"The little decisions we make now determine the big decisions we will make later"
The Power of True Success p. 60

Chocolate or Cheese?

1. The children take turns asking each other, "If you had to choose between these, would you choose ...or ...." (They can make the choice between unrelated things, such as strawberries or fishing.)
2. The other children have to answer every question they are asked, even though the choices are hard.

Tips for Parents to Encourage Decisiveness

Although many decisions are by necessity out of a child's hands, he can learn at an early age to apply wisdom in making the decisions he is allowed to make. The same principles that an adult would follow to build decisiveness will apply to teaching and encouraging your child to be decisive.

First, he should learn to gather information so he can be informed about the best decision. For example, if he wants to save to buy a model airplane, perhaps he can compare various models, listen to advice on features he might want to have, and read about them if possible.

He will need to be encouraged to weigh decisions based on long-term goals, rather than giving in to impulsive desires or pressures from others. This will give him a clear perspective from which to decide. Encourage him to make a pro's and con's list for the decision he is facing, and help him see the possible consequences of each decision.

Monitor his decisions to be sure he is following through with them by providing incentives or restrictions. Help him through times of pressure from others to change his mind, and cheer him on when he stays his course. Help him to see what he can learn from criticism.

Above all, give praise when he makes wise decisions and finishes the tasks he has chosen! Show him that wise decision making earns him the privilege of making more of his own decisions.

Family Project

Why not bring the children into a family project that involves the steps in decision-making? The topic might be planning a vacation or purchase of an item that the whole family would enjoy.

Have the children provide research into the places to visit or the item to be purchased. List the pro's and con's on a poster board and discuss the family values and goals that apply.

Assign tasks to show commitment to the decision, then reward completion. Discuss what effect procrastination would have on the project.

Check out the **Just for Kids** pages for an animal analogy and a biographic sketch illustrating Decisiveness