

# Self-Determination: Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

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## Welcome Back

Your Name



↓  
Name one thing you do now for yourself  
that your parents or guardian did for you  
a year ago.



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## Ground Rules



Cameras on when possible



Use chat or raise hand to talk (Zoom or actual hand)



Listen to understand



Ask questions with the microphone or in chat

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## What We Will Do Today

- Review last weeks information and home activities
- Talk about decision-making and problem-solving
- Answer questions in chat
- Watch one or more videos
- Get home practice activities for this week



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## Self-Determination Elements

1. Self-awareness and self-efficacy

2. Self-advocacy and self-regulation

3. Making choices and decisions, and solving problems

4. Setting and reaching goals

4. How I see myself and future (locus of control)



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## Self-Advocacy means:

- Asking my parents to do things for me
- Knowing what supports help me get what I need
- Waiting to see what happens, and hope it goes well



(Put A, B, or C for your answer in the chat)



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### Laws Supporting Self-Advocacy

The federal law protecting people with disabilities from discrimination:

A \_\_\_\_\_ with D \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**



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### Laws Supporting Self-Advocacy

The federal law protecting students in special education, and requires inclusion is called the:

I \_\_\_\_\_ with D \_\_\_\_\_ in E \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

- **Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA)**



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### Laws Supporting Self-Advocacy

The written plan for special education which has your support needs and goals for the future:

I \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

- **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**



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### Self-Advocacy Examples

**Give an example of how you can self-advocate at...**

- Home
- School
- Work
- Healthcare
- Community
- Relationships

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### Self-Regulation has to do with:

- A. Paying attention to how I am feeling and acting
- B. Only being positive and never negative
- C. Expecting others to feel the same way I do

*(Put A, B, or C for your answer in the chat)*

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### Some ways to self-regulate are:

- A. Counting to 10
- B. Taking a walk
- C. Talking to my family
- D. All of the above

*(Put A, B, C, D for your answer in the chat)*

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Name some **ideas or strategies** you came up with you might use to **self-regulate**



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## Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

Involves thinking about what to do!



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## Decisions and Problems

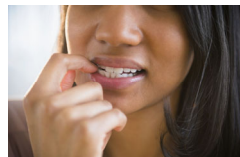
### Decision:

- Making a choice between different options

### Problem:

- Something has (already) happened

**Both can make us feel anxious and get stuck**



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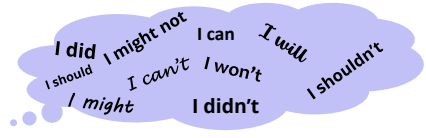
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### Decisions



- Thoughts can pop in and out of our minds
- Choosing what to do can be hard
- Big deal or little deal
- Problem-solving may help

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### Related...

#### Decision-Making

- Quick or takes time
- Help may be needed
- All sizes of decisions
- BEST option
- Current/future situation
- Causes anxiety

#### Problem-Solving

- *Part of decision-making*
- 2 or more options
- Pros and cons (+ or -) of each option
- Harder decisions



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### Choices

- Simpler decisions (this or that)
- Make daily
- Based on preferences
- Needs little thinking
- Usually make on our own choices
- Examples:
  - Do I want an apple or donut?
  - Do I wear my green hat or blue hat?
  - Do I walk or take the bus
  - Do I buy a new game today or next week?
  - Do I do my homework now or after dinner?
  - Do I ask for help or not?



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### Snap Decisions

- Quick or easy decisions not needing as much thought
- Usually used for little deals
- Big deal decisions shouldn't be a snap decision
- Examples of snap decisions:
  - I had fries yesterday, today I'll have chips
  - My blue shirt is dirty, I'll wear my green one instead
  - I need to send a text to say I'm late, it will be faster to voice text instead of typing the text



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### Snap Decisions

**What one is a **SNAP** decision below?**

- A. Deciding what job you will do in the future
- B. The goals you want in your IEP
- C. We are out of lemonade, I'll drink water

*(Put A, B, C for your answer in the chat)*

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### Getting Stuck

- Our brain or thinking can get stuck
- We aren't sure what to do
- Can get us upset, frustrated, angry, confused, anxious, or depressed
- Hard to make decisions

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## Moving on...

Instead of getting upset when we get stuck, it's important to notice we are stuck, think about how to solve the problem, and get help if we need it



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## Getting **Un**-Stuck

Some people...

- Don't do anything
- Try to solve the problem
  - Think about how
  - Options to move on
- Talk to someone or ask for help



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## Getting Help with Decisions

1. How do you know you need to ask for help?
2. Who do you ask for help?
3. What kinds of decisions do you think you might need help with?



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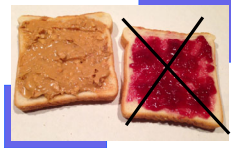


### Getting Stuck-Example 1

• **Example:** you want peanut butter jelly for lunch, but you are out of jelly

• I want help now: *Mom, I need you to go to the store and buy jelly right now!*

• I don't do anything-go with the flow: *Oh well, I won't eat lunch today. Or...other options?*



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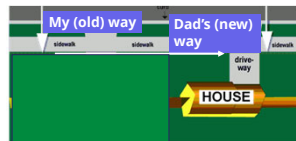
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### Getting Stuck-Example 2

• **Example:** you're going home from school and your dad takes a different road to your house

• That's not right!: *Dad, you went the wrong way...go that way, you're going the wrong way*

• I don't do anything-go with the flow: *Oh, there's more than one way to get home! It seemed shorter too!*



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### Getting Stuck-What Would you Do?

#### Other examples:

- At school: you are confused about your math homework
- At home: you realize you sent a text to the wrong person asking about an assignment
- At work: you finish a task and do not know what to do next
- In the community: you are at the library and cannot find the book you are looking for



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## Getting Stuck

### Stuck on an Escalator

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## Size of the Decision or Problem


### Is the Problem or Decision a...

**Big Deal**

- Something unsafe
- Something illegal
- Something that breaks the rules
- Makes us really stuck
- May need help solving

**Little Deal**

- Something that is annoying
- Something you don't like
- No one gets hurt
- Can be taken care of quickly
- Could get stuck
- YOU usually can solve on your own



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## Big Deal or Little Deal?

**Drop your books**

Being a part of your IEP

An angry customer at work

Being bullied

Forgot to make your bed

Spilled milk on the table

Swearing at your teacher

The ice cream shop is out of your favorite flavor

**Drop your books**

Forgot to make your bed

Spilled milk on the table

The ice cream shop is out of your favorite flavor

**Being a part of your IEP**

An angry customer at work

Being bullied

Swearing at your teacher



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## Mistakes

- Type of problem
- Everyone makes mistakes
- Own it
- Sometimes need to apologize
  - If it affects someone else
- Take steps to not make the same mistake again
- May need to problem-solve



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## Decision-Making Process



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## Decision-Making Process Steps

1. Stop and think about what the decision or problem is
2. Think of 2-3 options or choices you have
3. Make a pro and con list for each choice (problem-solve)
4. Decide on the best option or choice and do it
5. Think about how the decision worked out

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**Step 1**  
Stop and think about what the decision or problem is

**Decision Making Process-Step 1**

*Think: Is this a problem that's a **big deal or little deal**? Am I **stuck**?*

**Example:**  
My friend asked me to play online video games tonight, but I need to do my homework because I have a test Friday. **I think I have a decision to make!**

- I feel **stuck**—I need to look at my options!

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**Step 2**  
Think of 2-3 options (choices) you have for making your decision

**Decision-Making Process-Step 2**

**What are my options or choices?**

**1. Do my homework tonight**

**OR**

**2. Play online video games with my friend tonight**

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**Step 3**  
Make a pro and con list for each option or choice

**Decision-Making Process-Step 3**

**Problem-Solve:** write down the pros (+) and cons (-) of my options of doing homework or playing games.

	Option 1-do homework tonight	Option 2-play games tonight
<b>Pros (+)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I may get a better grade</li> <li>I don't fall behind in school</li> <li>I will feel good when it is done</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I get to play with my friend</li> <li>I might win at the game</li> <li>My friend will be happy</li> </ul>
<b>Cons (-)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I miss time with my friend</li> <li>I will miss out on fun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will feel guilty about homework</li> <li>I will get a bad grade on my homework</li> <li>I might not do well on my test</li> </ul>

• Think about each pros and cons of each option  
 • Ask your family, friends, teachers, or someone you trust to help you with thinking about pros and cons  
 • This is problem-solving, which is part of decision-making

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**Step 4**  
Decide on the best option or choice and follow-through

**Decision-Making Process-Step 4:  
Uses Problem Solving**

What is my decision? I do my homework tonight that is due tomorrow or play video games tonight with my online friend...

Decision that is best for ME: I really want to play games, but my homework grade is important, and I have a test this week the homework covers. I can ask my friend to play another time.




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**Step 5**  
Think about how the decision worked out

**Decision-Making Process-Step 5**

**Did it work out?**

Was it a good decision?

- Yes-I did my homework and handed it on time and got a B on my test!



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**Making your own decisions and solving your own problems increases your self-determination and can help you be more independent**



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### Decision-Making includes...

- A. 5 steps to help you make a decision
- B. You make your best guess for a decision
- C. Only looking at the cons (or negative or minuses) of options

(Put A, B, or C in chat!)



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### An example of using decision-making in your IEP would be:

- A. Having your IEP team make all the decisions on your transition goal
- B. Your taking part in decision-making about the goals on your IEP
- C. You making a *snap decision* on your transition goal

(Put A, B, or C in chat!)



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### Problem Solving...

You are at work and forgot your password for the computer to put your work time in to get paid. You have co-workers and your supervisor nearby.

*Is this a big or little deal?*

*What can you do?*



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### Decision-Making Practice Situation 1

You have a substitute teacher who does not know where materials are in the classroom. You know where they are, but you are not sure if you should say something.

- What decision do you need to you make?
- Is it a big deal or little deal?
- Can I make the decision now? (Yes or No)

#### Problem-Solving

- 2 options
- Pros and cons of each option

**Make the decision: My decision is...**  
**How did the decision work out?**



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### Decision-Making Practice Situation 2

You are rushing to get to school on time, and you trip and fall on your way out the door, cutting your arm. It's bleeding and needs a Band-Aid, and you are already late for class.

- What decision do you need to you make?
- Is it a big deal or little deal?
- Can I make the decision now? (Yes or No)

#### Problem-Solving

- 2 options
- Pros and cons of each option

**Make the decision: My decision is...**  
**How did the decision work out?**



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### Decision-Making Practice Situation 3

You realize you forgot to lock the door when you took the recycle out at work. You are concerned it will be unlocked overnight.

- What decision do you need to you make?
- Is it a big deal or little deal?
- Can I make the decision now? (Yes or No)

#### Problem-Solving

- 2 options
- Pros and cons of each option

**Make the decision: My decision is...**  
**How did the decision work out?**



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## Home Activities (Review Next Week)



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## Next Steps:

1. Review your Home Activities Checklist
2. Review Additional Resources on self-determination, decision-making, and problem-solving

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## Self-Determination-Home Activities Checklist

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Youth Self-Determination Series Home Activities Checklist  
Session 3: Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Components of Self-Determination

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Activities Checklist**  
Use the checklist below to work through the assigned home activities for Session 3.

Done	Activity
	1. Complete the Big Deal Little Deal Home Activity
	2. Complete the Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Home Activity on Decision-Making and Problem-Solving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can complete the longer form (and use words or pictures)</li> <li>Or</li> <li>You can complete the 1-page shortened form</li> </ul>
	3. Review the provided Resources document for additional information on decision-making and problem-solving

### Home Activity-Checklist

- Start with your Home Activities Checklist
- Work with your parents on this if you have questions
- All resources should be available here, or in your home activities information shared by Michigan Alliance for Families

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## Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

**Problem-Solving and Decision-Making**  
Youth Self-Determination Series

Section 9 Big Deal Little Deal Home Activity

Give the response you think is correct (remember a big deal means you might need to get someone else's help, and a little deal means you can do it on your own).

What could you do to get to work?	Big Deal	Little Deal
You forget it is paper day at school	Big Deal	Little Deal
You lose things like your schedule	Big Deal	Little Deal
You are absent because you are too tired	Big Deal	Little Deal
Your friend keeps taking your money	Big Deal	Little Deal
You left your phone in your locker	Big Deal	Little Deal
Someone tells a lie about you	Big Deal	Little Deal

What could you do?

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### Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Home Activity-Big Deal or Little Deal

- Written or complete with pictures

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## Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

**Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Process Home Activity**

- Written or complete with pictures

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## Decision-Making and Problem-Solving

**Decision-Making and Problem-Solving**  
Youth Self-Determination Series

Section 9 Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Process Home Activity

**SHORTER FORM**

Answer the questions below. You can fill this out with words or pictures. Have your parent or guardian help with the questions if needed.

What is the problem or problem?

**Step 1:** The student reads or hears a problem (question) and writes it.

**Step 2 and Step 3:** Think of 2 options you have to make your decision or solve your problem and write down your ideas.

Option 1 is \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cons: \_\_\_\_\_

Option 2 is \_\_\_\_\_  
Pros: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cons: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 4:** Think about how to choose your idea.

My best choice is \_\_\_\_\_  
I choose this choice because (why): \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5:** Think about how to work on it.

The decision I made did or did not work well because:

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### Decision-Making and Problem-Solving Process Home Activity

- SHORTER Form
- Alternative to longer form

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**For more information visit**  
[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

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 En Español 313-217-1060  
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In collaboration with 

Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE-OSE); the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MILEAP); and Michigan's Federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs(OSEP).

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