

Choice Bag Game

Activity type: Decision Making/Cause and Effect Thinking

Min. group size: 8

Props: Three Gift Bags w/ tissue paper, three large Rattraps, 1 candy bar for each teen in the group and one plain paper lunch sack for each candy bar.

Instructions:

Place gift bags on a table at the far side of the room.

The colored bags should contain one Rattrap each.

(Do not set the trap, these are dangerous and will cause serious injury)

Place one of the plain paper bags containing the candy bar with the colored bags thus creating four options.

Set up of game with group:

Tell the teens that in a minute each one of them will have to choose one of the bags.

Ask what they remember about the first time they played the choice bag game?

Explain that since they have now completed this program they are better equipped to make positive decisions and therefore have more options thus the of the fourth paper bag.

Start with the teen you think will most likely ask if they can look in the bags first before they decide. Your reply should be something like: "What did we learn the first time? Hopefully they will come up and look through each bag and decide on the bag with the candy bar. At which time you will replace the bag with the candy bar with another waiting out of sight. Each teen will have all four option to select from.

However, if someone should choose a bag containing a rattrap don't panic just replace with another bag containing a candy bar. **(See Debrief)*

Once again instruct the teens that they may take the bag back to their seat and look inside the bag but do not reveal to the others what is inside their bag until all have chosen.

Debrief:

As in life nothing stays the same, your positive choices have received a much greater positive consequence than before. And likewise those who continue to make negative choices the consequences only get bigger, more painful and more dangerous.

*And as in life some people will “look straight at the consequence” and know it is not the right choice and they will choose to do it anyway.

Have you ever known someone like that?

What do you think will eventually happen to them?

Can we avoid potentially dangerous situations in life by just looking at the possibilities before we commit ourselves to a particular decision?

Can someone give me an example of this?