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# SPOTLIGHT

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This year we have been busy developing life skill routines across the district. What are life skills you say? It's more than cooking and sewing they are really those 21<sup>st</sup> century skills we all need to be successful. Each month we are sharing a life skill and how it develops over a lifetime. We have broken down this development into age groups so you will know what to expect from your students.

## **Decision making skills**

### **Age 4-7**

- Have a basic understanding of choices and consequences
- Able to choose between two or three selections

### **Age 8-12**

- Can gather facts necessary for making informed decisions
- Prioritize tasks
- Determine the most efficient course of action for completing a task
- Respond to peer pressure appropriately

### **Ages 13-15**

- Read and decipher fine print, with a parent's help
- Develop a pros and cons list when making a decision
- Understand why some laws have been enacted
- Talk with others about which politicians would be best for office

### **Ages 16-18**

- Read and decipher fine print
- Talk with a career counselor
- Vote (18 year olds) Understand a rental contract for housing (18 year olds)

## **One thing I can do**

Teacher 4-7 - offer choices whenever possible.

Teacher 8-12 – make lists and then sort them into priorities. Teach this skill

Teacher 13-15 – make t charts with pros and cons listed for a variety of topics

Teacher 16-18 – analyze hidden meanings and look at fine print for something relating to your subject. Teach that some things are not always what they appear. They need to dig a little deeper to fully understand all nuances.