

PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure can be a very powerful influence on your child and sometimes can cause your child to make a decision that is not safe. Take the time to talk with your child about what and who influences their decisions. Help them to understand that if a decision is not safe, it is not a responsible decision for them to make. In the following scenarios, you and your child will have an opportunity to draw a conclusion about the influences and make a responsible decision.

1. Maria is feeling pressure from her friends to not invite Franklin to her birthday party. Franklin has been Maria's next-door neighbor and her friend for her whole life, but her friends don't like him. They don't want her to invite him to her party. She does not want to hurt Franklin's feelings, but she is afraid that her friends will not come to her party if she does invite him.

What should Maria do?

What would you do? Why?

2. Jason is a new student at school. He is a good student, helpful but very quiet. He has a hard time meeting people, so he doesn't have any friends. He starts playing with a group of popular boys during recess and is so excited because they are fun and he finally has some friends. On the way home from school one day, they stop at a convenience store. When they go inside, one of Jason's new friends tells him to go ask the clerk a question and distract him, so they can sneak out with some candy. Jason doesn't want to lose his new friends, but he doesn't want to steal to fit in.

What should Jason do?

What would you do? Why?

3. Denise's best friend, Ann, is a very kind girl who has lots of friends. She comes from a large family and wears clothes that her older sisters used to wear, but she always looks nice. She doesn't really care too much about what other people wear. Some of Denise's other friends really like clothes and are always commenting about what the other girls wear to school. Lately their comments have become very mean and hurtful. They have even nicknamed Ann "Raggedy Ann." Denise's friends have begun to pressure her to stop inviting Ann to go places with them because they say Ann's clothes embarrass them.

What should Denise do?

What would you do? Why?