

Making Decisions – Whole Class Example

When people carefully consider all their alternatives before making a decision, they have a better chance of choosing the alternative that offers them the greatest satisfaction. Using the information provided in your group’s scenario, work together to determine the alternative that would provide the greatest satisfaction. Use the decision-making grid below to help evaluate each alternative. List each alternative in the boxes in the column on the left side of the grid. Alternatives are options available to choose from. Then, in each row, write the benefits and costs, or positive and negative factors or consequences of each alternative. Use this grid to help determine which alternative would offer the greatest satisfaction and why.



Criteria

	Benefits (positive factors or consequences)	Costs (negative factors or consequences)
Alternative 1 Meet at one of your friend’s homes and play games	Can save some money Can spend more time with friends	Parents might not allow or be willing to drive
Alternative 2 Go to the park and play at the playground.	Doesn’t cost any money; Can save all money Get to play on new playground equipment	Requires parents to drive; some may not be willing Can’t spend as much time with friends Heat
Alternative 3 Go swimming at the community pool.	Hot day; nice way to cool off Haven’t had many swim opportunities due to weather Love to swim	\$8.00 admission plus snacks; probably spend all money

Alternatives

Which alternative do you think will offer the greatest satisfaction? swimming

Why?

Offers the greatest benefits and the least costs. Even though there is a greater financial cost, you have the money to spend for this activity.