

Natural Consequences

Natural consequences reinforce for students that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between their actions and outcomes.

"All choices bear fruit, whether sweet or bitter. It is our job to allow students to gently learn and internalize the sometimes wonderful and sometimes biting nature of responsibility."

- Foster Cline, MD & Jim Kay, authors Teaching with Love and Logic

Student Action

Natural Consequence

Student watches YouTube during school time rather than doing lessons.	Student does their lessons at the kitchen table with their screen positioned for the Learning Coach to monitor their activity rather than at the desk in their bedroom.
Student forgets to do an assignment for science class.	Student has homework after school time or on the weekend, which may result in the student missing out on a fun family activity, such as a movie night or bike ride.
Student interrupts the Learning Coach several times.	Student is asked to leave the learning space temporarily. Student may have to work later on their assignments after everyone else has finished for the day.
Student texts and chats with friends during school time rather than doing lessons.	Student cannot use their phone during school hours.
Student decides to do an extra assignment in their Language Arts class.	Student finishes their To Do list earlier than expected and has additional video game time at the end of the week.
Student attends office hours with a teacher when they are struggling with an assignment.	Student earns a strong grade on the assignment.

Natural Consequences

Encourage students to solve their own problems:

When students make a mistake (*and they will!*), support them to solve their own problems.

Elementary Students	"I notice that you scribbled in your workbook and now we cannot see your work. How do you plan to show your teacher your work?"	"What do you need from me?"
Middle School Students	"I notice that you skipped your Math Live Session and earned a low grade on your assignment. How do you plan to learn the material?"	"What do you need from me?"
High School Students	"I notice that you plagiarized your assignment and now we have a meeting with your teacher and the principal. How do you plan to prepare for that meeting?"	"What do you need from me?"

Natural Consequences

Allow the Learning Coach time to pause, reflect, and decide:

Let go of the expectation that you must have the perfect natural consequence at the ready for every potential mistake that your learner may make!

For Learning Coaches	For Students
<p>"An immediate response may be an angry response, and the anger may override any effects that the consequences might have."</p>	<p>"If we force our students to face consequences while they are very angry, they won't see the logic of the decision. Instead they may focus on your anger. And instead of thinking about what they did to cause the problem, they may sulk about how unfair we are, and in turn, justify their angry response."</p>

- Foster Cline, MD & Jim Kay, authors *Teaching with Love and Logic*

Sentence Starters

- "That was a poor decision. I am going to do something about that. Let's both think about a solution."
- "That behavior really worries me and makes me uncomfortable. I need a moment before we talk about it and decide how to go forward."