

7. After a Poor Choice

Use this after a safe mistake, regretted purchase, forgotten responsibility, or other low-stakes poor choice. The goal is learning and repair, not adding punishment to an already-existing consequence.

What actually happened?

Who naturally owns the consequence?

Is repair needed? If so, what would repair look like?

Does the child need information, help, or simply time?

Are we tempted to rescue because the consequence is uncomfortable to watch?

Avoid adding:

- ☐ "I told you so."
- ☐ automatic replacement/rescue
- ☐ unrelated punishment
- ☐ character labels

Try asking:

"What do you think happened?"
"What would you do differently next time?"
"Do you need help figuring out the next step?"