VOTING CHAIN
(20-30 minutes)

OBJECTIVE
Students vote, tally, and implement the vote.

MATERIALS
Construction paper; *Yes/No Sign* handout; tape

GET READY
✔ Cut a small strip of construction paper to make a link for each child. Each strip of construction paper will be a link in a chain.
✔ Cut apart the *Yes/No Sign* handout.
✔ Pin the *Yes* sign and the *No* sign to a bulletin board so you can attach the students' links as they vote.

INSTRUCTIONS
✔ Say to the children, *Have you and your friends ever had to make a decision about something that was hard to agree on? Maybe you were deciding what to watch on TV or where to eat. How did you finally make the decision? Voting is a fair way to make decisions.*
✔ Help the class choose an issue to vote on (such as snacks, activities, or recess time) that can be implemented immediately. State the issue as a question to be answered "Yes" or "No."
✔ Give your students the strips of paper. (You may ask them to write their names on them or you can explain the concept of a secret ballot where voting is confidential.)
✔ Explain that one link on a voting chain represents one vote.
✔ Let each student link his/her "vote" under the *Yes* sign or *No* sign.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
★ *Is the longest chain under the* Yes *sign or under the* No *sign? Let's count.*
★ *Can you see your own voting link?*
★ *Would the chain look different if you had not voted?*
★ *What might happen if you could vote as many times as you wished rather than once?*
★ *What do the results of our vote mean to us?*
★ *Was this a fair decision?*

MORE!
The class could vote on other issues during the week in this way or in others.

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:
★ *Have students explain how their vote helped meet a common goal or have them explain what would have happened if only half the students who voted on their side had actually voted.*
★ *Have students explain how voting helps meet shared responsibilities.*

YES/NO SIGN

YES

NO