Did you know?

Knowing the difference between wants and needs can make a difference in your life and those around you. A **NEED** is something you must have in life, like food, water and shelter. A **WANT** is something you would like to have, but do not need.

Knowing the difference will help you learn how to make smart money moves and learn about your priorities. Everyone has the same basic needs, some of our basic needs are free like air, and some cost money like a home.

The Wants and Needs in Candy

Find a hard candy or small snack (like skittles, cheerios, smarties or pretzels) and count out 50 pieces. Each piece of candy/snack is worth 1 point. Think of these points like money and how you would spend it. As you spend your points, take them away from your pile and place them off to the side. We do have a few essential needs that you must purchase. Once you’ve purchased your needs, count how many points you have left. Your extra points will be spend on your wants. It can be hard, deciding what is more important to you. You don’t have enough points for them all, but its okay they are only wants.

Your needs are: Water—5 points  Food—5 points  Home— 5 points  Clothing— 5 points

Then, there are **wants that you can buy with your extra points:**

TV— 3 points  Ferrari— 6 points  Eating out— 4 points
Juice— 2 points  Soda— 3 points  A bicycle— 2 points
Dessert— 2 points  Netflix— 2 points  Pool— 4 points
Sports equipment— 3 points  Internet— 2 points  Musical instruments— 3 points
Computer—2 points  Air Conditioning— 2 points  A Beach house— 5 points
Art supplies— 3 points  A car— 4 points  Vacation— 5 points
Books— 3 points  Fast food— 2 points

After playing the game at least once, take a few points away and do it again. Which of your decisions changed? You may need to make a trade off, deciding to give one item up to keep another.

** Bonus prize—You can eat your points once you are done!

Making your own list

Recently, there are a lot of precautions to keep you safe and there may be something you normally have or do that you can’t. This would be a good time to sit down by yourself or with your family and create a want vs. needs list. You might find out that you can do with less and share more with others that might not be as lucky as you.