



Money for Needs and Wants

After watching the *JA Our Families* Lesson 2 volunteer video session, reinforce the learning in the lesson by playing a card game that you and your child create together.

Materials

- 16–20 index cards (3 x 5) or other small cards
- Markers or crayons
- Coin for flipping

Activity

Help your child create a Needs and Wants deck of cards to play a Slap Jack kind of game. Things that cover our basic *needs* include food, shelter, and clothing. *Wants* are things we enjoy but can live without.

- Using 3 x 5 cards, draw a picture of a need or want on only one side of each card. Some ideas for needs are basic food items (banana, apple, bread), basic clothing items (sweater, pants, socks), and some different places to shelter (house, apartment, tent). Examples of wants are cookies, candies, soda, games, toys, and name-brand items. Make at least 8 needs and 8 wants.
- Shuffle the cards.
- Set the deck face down on a table or desk between you and your child.
- Use a coin to flip for each round: heads for needs, tails for wants. You may want to tape a letter **N** to one side of the coin for **Needs**, and **W** to the other side for **Wants**.
- For the first turn, have your child turn the first card face up on the table and flip the coin. If the card matches the coin, both of you should try to slap the card. The first to slap (tag or tap) the card collects it.
- If the card does not match the coin (for example, it is not a picture of a want when tails is shown on the coin), leave it alone.
- For the next turn, you turn the next card face up (on top of the first card if it wasn't collected) and flip the coin. If it matches, the first player to slap the top card collects the pile.
- Continue until you have played through all of the cards. You may turn the pile and begin again.
- The player to collect the most cards is the winner.

Parents: If you wish, discuss which members of the family use the different items that are needs and wants, and how they were bought or earned. Explain that although we often want and use many things throughout our day, there are very few things we could not live without. We all need the basics of food and water, shelter, and clothing. Adults also need those things which help them earn the money to pay for things the family wants and needs, such as a way to get to work and the tools that they use to do their job.