



Sorting Needs and Wants

Discuss the difference between *Needs* and *Wants* with your child. Here are some talking points to help you:

- A *need* is something people must have to live. Food, water, clothes, and a place to live are examples of needs.
- A *want* is something most of us would like to have but can live without. Toys, a computer, and a stuffed animal are examples of wants.
- People who make smart choices have enough money for the things they need and want.
- Money-smart people buy the things they need—which are the important things—before they buy the things they want.

1. Have your child cut out the needs and wants pictures from the picture page, or use magazines, catalogs, or sales fliers.
2. Use the chart on the next page to sort the items.
3. Discuss whether the item pictured is a need or a want, and then place it in the correct column. (You may want to have your child tape or glue the pictures down so they stay in place.)
4. Encourage your child to use new vocabulary when placing the pictures. For example, “This is a picture of a basketball. A basketball is a want, because I can live without a basketball.” Or, “This is a picture of a shirt. A shirt is a need, because I cannot live without clothes.” *You may need to mention that shoes are needs but expensive athletic shoes are wants, or that food is a need but eating at a fancy restaurant is a want.*

When your child has finished working, review the activity with the following questions:

- Why is fruit a need? (Answer: Because we can't live without food.)
- Why is a bike a want? (Answer: Because we can live without a bike.)

I Can Sort Needs and Wants

Need

Something people
must have to live.



Want

Something people
would like to have.



