

Family Activities



Readiness Skill: Expresses own needs and wants

Understanding the difference between wants and needs can be a difficult task for young children. The understanding of this concept takes patience and time. Parents play an important role in helping children express their wants and needs appropriately.

Talk About It

Parents can help their children understand the importance of expressing their wants and needs in appropriate ways. Children should always be made to feel comfortable to talk to an adult about what it is they need. This will become increasingly important as your child transitions from home where they may be the only child to the kindergarten classroom where they will be one of many. Talk with your child about the proper way of letting an adult know when he or she has a personal need. These needs may come in many forms including when to use the bathroom, get a drink of water when they are thirsty or something to eat when they are hungry.



What's the Difference?

Before a child can appropriately express his or her own needs and wants they must understand the difference between the two concepts. Understanding these two concepts takes a lot of time and your child will have a difficult time grasping them at first. You can begin by giving your child a basic explanation of the two. A need is something people must have in order to live, including: food, a place to live, water, and clothing. A want is something people do not necessarily have to have in order to live. Examples of wants might include: toys, video games, and other gadgets.



Sorting Game



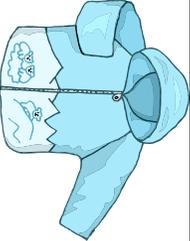
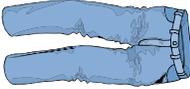
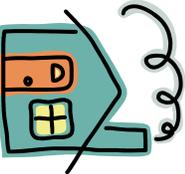
Reinforce the concepts of wants and needs by playing the sorting game included with this family print activity. Cut apart the game pieces, mix them up and place them face up on the table. Take turns sorting the pieces on the game mat under the appropriate column (Wants/Needs). Those items identified as wants should be placed under the Wants column while those items identified as needs should be placed under the Needs column. Be sure to have a conversation with your child as the game is played about why or why not something is considered a want or a need.

Wants and Needs Game

| Wants | Needs |
|-------|-------|
| | |

Directions: Cut apart the wants and needs picture cards and mix them up face up on a table. Take turns picking a card and placing it under the appropriate column above. Talk with your child about why the picture card represents a want or a need. Mix up the cards and repeat.

Wants and Needs Picture Cards

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