



SORTING ACTIVITY

Needs, Wants or It Depends?

A sorting activity for ages 4–7

Cut out the cards. Talk about each choice. Sort each one into NEED, WANT or IT DEPENDS.



Need

Things we must have
to be healthy, safe
or able to take part
in daily life.



Want

Things we would like
to have, but we don't
need them to be healthy
or safe.



It depends

It might be a need or a want
depending on the situation.
We can talk about it
and decide!



Cut out the cards below.



School coat



Bus fare



Medicine



Water bottle



Birthday present



Ice cream



Toy robot



Packed lunch



Winter gloves



Second pair of trainers



After-school snack



Charity gift



Talk together

There are no wrong answers! Some things can be different for different people.

SET A · NEED CARDS · AGES 4-7



Need cards

Talk about: why each of these helps us live, learn, stay healthy or stay safe.



CUT, MIX AND TALK

Print on card, cut on the dashed lines and mix Sets A, B and C before use.



●
SET A | NEED CARD

Food



●
SET A | NEED CARD

Water



●
SET A | NEED CARD

**Somewhere
safe to sleep**



●
SET A | NEED CARD

**A warm coat
in cold weather**



●
SET A | NEED CARD

Shoes that fit



●
SET A | NEED CARD

**Medicine
when ill**



●
SET A | NEED CARD

**What you need
for schoolwork**



●
SET A | NEED CARD

**Soap and
toothpaste**

GROWN-UPS

Let children give their own reasons before you share yours.



SET B • WANT CARDS • AGES 4-7



Want cards

Talk about: a want can be fun to have without being something we need.
A want is not a bad choice.



CUT, MIX AND TALK

Print on card, cut on the dashed lines and mix Sets A, B and C before use.

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



Chocolate

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



A video game

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



A new toy

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



Sweets

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



Sparkly trainers
when yours fit

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



A theme park trip

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



A squishy toy

SET B | AMBER DIAMONDS



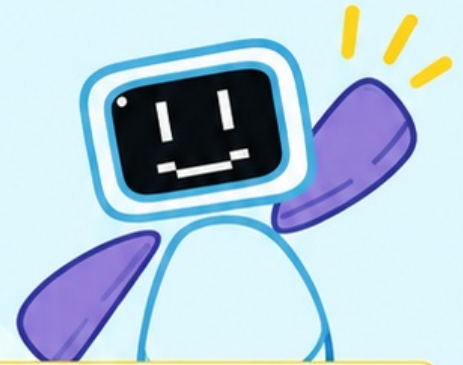
Another art kit

GROWN-UPS

Ask for a reason. Needs aren't good and wants aren't bad. What matters is the reason your child gives.



SET C • "IT DEPENDS" CARDS • AGES 4-7



? "It depends" cards

Talk about: what could change whether something is a need or a want?

CUT, MIX AND TALK

Print on card, cut on the dashed lines and mix Sets A, B and C before use.

★ SET C



New shoes

★ SET C



An umbrella

★ SET C



A tablet

★ SET C



A bike

★ SET C



A snack
after school

★ SET C



A school bag

★ SET C



Football boots

★ SET C



A haircut

GROWN-UPS

Ask: "What would you need to know before deciding?" It's fine for an answer to change when you learn something new.



SORTING MAT • AGES 4-7

Sorting mat

Put each card in a zone and say why. If a card is tricky, ask:
what else would we need to know? You can use Tap. Tap. Pause. first.



NEED

Important for living, learning,
health or safety.



WANT

Something a person would like
but can live without.



"IT DEPENDS"

The situation or missing information
changes the answer.



SAFE DISTANCE

Discuss the card or a story character. Do not ask what anybody's family owns, buys or can afford.