



Wants vs Needs

Sponsored by Game of Actual Life



Overview: A look at the difference between desires and necessities.

Time: 10 minutes

Equipment required: Paper, two dry wipe boards with pens.

Benefits:

- Allows for mature dialogue and respectful conversation.
- Encourages children to change their opinion after hearing other viewpoints.
- Helps them assess what they truly need in life and what they simply want.

The Set-Up:

1. Label one side of the room as “Want and the other as “Need”.
2. Ask the children to become a walking, talking dictionary and to define each word.
3. Write down their definitions on paper and place them under each word.
4. Place a mobile phone (or a picture/toy) in the middle of the room.

The Exercise:

1. If they have one, invite them to explain how they use theirs.
2. Ask children to pick a side of the room depending on whether they ‘want’ or ‘need’ a phone.
3. Allow the children, no matter which side they’re on, to present their viewpoint.
4. Feel free to offer your own counter-argument, to help spark discussion.
5. Invite children to change sides if they would like to, after hearing each other’s views.