BUDGET Right
MONEY MADE PRACTICAL. CONFIDENCE THAT LASTS.

NEEDS vs WANTS ACTIVITY

Help your family understand the difference between what we need, what we want - and why the answer isn't always black and white.

Talk about it. Sort it out. Decide together.

Money choices aren't always black and white.

Every family spends money on things they **need** and things they **want.** A **need** is something important for everyday life, health, safety or basic responsibilities. A **want** is something we'd like to have or do, but could usually manage without.

Sometimes the answer depends on the person, the situation and the choices available.

FOOD	CLOTHING	TRANSPORT
Food is a need. Takeaway instead of making dinner at home might be a want.	Clothing is a need. Another pair of expensive sneakers might be a want.	Transport may be a need. The type of car we choose can include wants too.

1 LET'S START WITH A CHAT

What are some things our family needs every week?

What are some things we enjoy but could live without?

Can you think of something that could be a need for one person but a want for someone else?

Why can knowing the difference help us make better money choices?

WANTS AREN'T BAD.
Spending money on things we enjoy is part of life. Understanding the difference between a need and a want simply helps us decide **where we want our money to go.**

THE NEEDS vs WANTS CHALLENGE

For each item, decide whether you think it's mainly a NEED, a WANT or IT DEPENDS.

Item	Need	Want	It Depends
Groceries	☐	☐	☐
Latest-model mobile phone	☐	☐	☐
School shoes	☐	☐	☐
Streaming subscription	☐	☐	☐
Internet access	☐	☐	☐
Takeaway dinner	☐	☐	☐
Medication	☐	☐	☐
Birthday present for a friend	☐	☐	☐
Transport to school or work	☐	☐	☐
Gaming purchase	☐	☐	☐
New clothes	☐	☐	☐
Family holiday	☐	☐	☐

HERE'S THE INTERESTING PART...

Choose three answers your family didn't completely agree on.

Item 1: .....

Why did we see it differently?

.....

.....

Item 2: .....

Why did we see it differently?

.....

.....

Item 3: .....

Why did we see it differently?

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.....

There isn't always one perfect answer.
Circumstances matter. The aim isn't to win the argument - it's to understand why different people may make different choices.

OUR FAMILY MONEY CHOICES

Try the idea with a real purchase or activity your family is considering.

2 LOOK AT SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE

Something our family or child would like to buy or do:

Approximate cost: $

ASK THESE FOUR QUESTIONS

1. DO WE NEED IT?
What problem does it solve or what purpose does it serve?

2. DO WE WANT IT?
Would we be okay if we didn't have it right now?

3. CAN WE AFFORD IT?
Is there room for it without taking money away from something more important?

4. IS IT WORTH IT TO US?
Does this feel like a good use of our money?

OUR DECISION

☐ Buy it now ☐ Save for it ☐ Look for a less expensive option

☐ Wait and decide later ☐ Decide we don't want it enough after all

Why did we make this choice?

OUR FAMILY CHALLENGE

This week, before buying one non-essential item, we'll stop and ask:

Do we need it, want it – and is it worth it to us?

The purchase we'll practice with:

GOOD MONEY CHOICES AREN'T ABOUT NEVER HAVING WHAT YOU WANT.

They're about understanding your choices and deciding what matters most. Families won't always agree - and that's okay. Talking about money helps children and young people learn that money involves **choices, priorities and trade-offs.**

Talk about it. Think about it. Choose together.

READY TO GO FURTHER?

Money conversations at home can help young people build practical money skills they'll use for life. Budget Right has books, resources and family support designed to make conversations about money easier and more practical.

For teens and young adults, explore **Money Sorted. Life Ready.** - practical money education for life beyond school.

Explore Budget Right – budgetright.com.au

Money Made Practical. Confidence That Lasts.

Important information: This resource is provided for general financial education and family discussion purposes only. It does not take into account your individual circumstances and is not personal financial, legal, tax or accounting advice. If you require advice specific to your circumstances, please speak with an appropriately qualified professional.

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