

One Party, Multiple Choices*

Objective

Organizing a party is a great opportunity to discuss consumption with your child. The following activity gives your child the chance to develop an approach that will help them make the best choices based on their needs and budget.

Prerequisite activity

Before doing this activity with your child, it's best to start with the [The Fishing Trip activity](#).

Preparation

To begin, remind your child of what they learned during [The Fishing Trip activity](#): the difference between an essential good and a non-essential good.

Tell them it's time to test their knowledge by organizing a fictional party where they'll have to make sound consumer choices.

First, print the list of items available for the party, found at the end of the document. Print only on one side of the page.

* This activity is inspired by the educational activity guide *D'un commerce agréable et équitable*, published by Établissement vert Brundtland.

Steps

1. Together with your child, take a look at the items available for the party. Ask them to cut out all the objects on the list.
2. Ask your child to identify four needs they think are important to meet when organizing a party. These could be, for example, beverages, food, decorations and fun activities.
3. Ask them to associate each cut-out item with one of the four needs just named. For each need, ask your child to rank the items chosen by order of importance, that is, from the most essential to the non-essential.
4. Tell your child they have a limited budget for organizing the party. To respect their budget, your child must choose no more than 15 items in total to meet the four needs identified earlier.

Explain that choices can vary depending on each person's tastes. The important thing is to choose the items that best meet the needs identified in the last step.

Conclusion

To conclude, discuss with your child what they are taking away from the activity. It's important to emphasize in this discussion that we can't get everything we want in life. We have to make choices. The best way to make sound choices and to choose what is really necessary is to accurately determine our needs and to stick to these.

To keep the discussion going, you can ask your child the following questions:

- What do you think of the party you organized?
- What's missing from your party to make it exactly how you want it?
- Why are some needs more important than others?
- How did the limited budget complicate your job?
- What did you do to make sure you respected the budget?
- In everyday life, just like when organizing a party, can we have it all? Why?

List of Proposed Party Items



Plates



Balloons



Individual milk cartons



Candles



Party hats



Knives, spoons and forks



Fruit



Birthday cake



Bags of snacks



Vegetable juice



Musical instruments



Tablecloths



Sandwiches



Party streamers



Napkins



Soda pop



Songbooks for sing-along



Invitations



Bags of chips



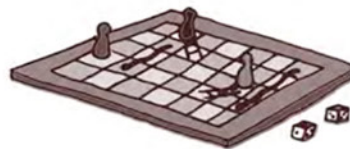
Veggie platter



Chicken thighs



Coloured lights



Board games



Fruit juice



Pizza slices



Potato salad



Garden salad



Party noisemakers



Disposable cups