

**Model Program**

**Program title:** Money Matching Game

**Program summary:** This simple matching game for elementary school children and their families and caregivers helps children recognize different denominations and coins of circulating U.S. currency. During the course of game play, children practice basic mathematics skills and begin to understand the relative prices of common consumer goods. The game can also be used to introduce the difference between needs and wants. The game requires minimal set-up and can be played repeatedly. This is an especially useful activity if time is limited. Older children can lead younger children through the game.

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Suggested venue:**  ☐ In Library ☐ At Home ☑ Either

**Instructor led:**  ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Either **Facilitation required:** ☐ Yes ☑ No

**Target audience:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ☑ | Kids (ages 3–7) |
| ☑ | Tweens (ages 8–12) |
| ☐ | Young adults (ages 13–18) |
| ☐ | Adults |
| ☐ | All ages |
| ☐ | Other: |

**Program budget:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ☐ | $0 |
| ☑ | $1–$50 |
| ☐ | $51–$100 |
| ☐ | $101–$250 |
| ☐ | $251–$500 |
| ☐ | More than $500 |

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**Advance planning:**

Create the cards beforehand using the instructions below. Other supplies for making the cards are construction paper, glue, and scissors. Optional: laminator.

* Print the provided “Money Matching Game” template, which has photos of items children may want to purchase on one side and photos of coins and dollar bills on the opposite side.
* Print the two pages. Glue each page to a sheet of construction paper with images facing up. This prevents players being able to see through the cards.
* Optional: Laminate the pages so they will stay in good condition longer.
* Cut out the item and money cards, and shuffle.

**Partnerships/Collaborations:**

No outside partnerships are required.

**Budget:**

$5, if you need to purchase supplies.

**Day of activity:**

Provide the cards; no staffing or other set-up needed. The game can be played with one person or with several.

**Program execution:**

* Lay the cards flat on a table. Parents or caregivers may want to review the money cards with children beforehand. Explain that there are two types of cards: money and items.
* To begin the game, randomly place the cards on the table with the construction paper facing up.
* The first player will turn over two cards per turn, one of each type. The parent or caregiver can point out what amount is shown on both cards.
* If the item card matches a money card, the player gets to keep both and turn over another two cards. If they don’t match, turn them face down again; it then becomes the next person’s turn.
* Play continues until all the cards have been matched. The person with the most cards in their hands is the winner.

**Advice:**

Discuss what other items the players may want to purchase and how much money these items cost. After the game is played, total the amount of all items depicted on the cards, then separate the depicted items into two piles—needs and wants—explaining the difference between the two.