

# Create a "Wants and Needs" Poster

Many items that kids ask for are things they want, not things they need. While your child does *need* food and clothing, that doesn't mean they should have a cookie or an expensive pair of shoes. Young kids are still learning the difference between "wants" and "needs" at school, and you'll probably have your share of discussion at home, too. To help make the differences clear, have your child make a poster of things that they "want" and "need."

## What You Need:

- Poster board
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Magazines

## What You Do:

1. First, help your child draw a line down the middle of a poster board.
2. On one side, have your child write "Wants" at the top of the poster, and on the other side have them write "Needs."
3. Ask your child about something they want and why they want it. Next, ask your child about something they need. If they're having trouble coming up with the correct answer, ask questions that will guide them to answers about clothing, water, food, toys, and shelter.
4. Then go over the differences of a want and a need. Tell them that a "need" is something we must have in order to survive, like food, water, clothing, and shelter. Stress that to meet our needs, all we have to get is the most basic of things. Then explain that a "want" is something that we can live without, even though we may have a strong desire for it.
5. After you're finished going over the differences, go through some magazines together and cut out about 15 to 20 pictures of both wants and needs. Try to get different types of magazines, like clothing catalogs, food magazines, etc.
6. When all the pictures are cut out, have your child pick a picture from the pile and tell you if it's something they need or something they want. Talk about their answer and then have them glue the picture onto the correct side of the board.
7. Once all of the pictures have been glued down, hang the picture in the house so that the next time your child wants something, like a new toy, talk about whether the item is a want or a need and ask your child which column of the poster the item would go under.

