

FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

Essential / Non-Essential Exercise

NB Before you do this exercise for the first time you will need to cut up the cards and put them in envelopes provided- or give this to your families as an activity!

This exercise is designed to illustrate the choices that we have to make about what we buy, and the necessity of buying essentials before we can buy what we want!

Each family (maximum 6 groups/families) is given a selection of cards which depict things that we buy, either because we have to or we need to.

The families are asked to put these things into order of priority for themselves, with the children taking the lead.

First of all, ask the families to put them into two piles:

Essential: Things that we really have to buy, and that are very important for life- without them life would be very difficult. E.g. Water

Non-essential: Things you like, but that you probably don't really need so that if you had to make a choice you wouldn't buy them.

Think about how you could live without these things? Could you? What could you do instead?

THEN

Ask the families together to rate them, most important to least important.

As a group, compare each group's decisions. Some prompter questions might be:

- *How did you make these decisions?*
- *What sort of things do you have to make sure are high up the list?*
- *Are some of the things that are non-essential too high up the list?*
- *Is it hard sometimes to decide what to spend money on?*

The cards say:

Rent
Food
Parties and trips out
Council Tax
Toiletries
Gas & Electric
Furniture
TV Licence
Travel
DVDs, games, downloads

Water
Takeaway & food out
Clothing
Home / contents insurance
Mobile phone
Car
Presents for friends / families
Savings
Cable TV Subscription
Toys & Books