

# Wants vs. Needs

## Activity 1

**Purpose:** To learn about the difference between wants and needs

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** Photocopy **Wants and Needs** cards. Cut out one set per group.

**Method:**

### Part One: Differentiation

Hand out a set of cards to each group.

Ask them to create two piles; a pile of **Wants** and a pile of **Needs**.

When they have finished ask:

- How did you decide which cards belong in which category?
- Do all the groups agree? Why or why not?
- What are the differences between Needs and Wants?



### Part Two: Prioritizing

Next, ask the groups to take their **Needs** pile and set the cards out on the floor or their desks placing the most important cards at the top and the least important cards at the bottom. The idea is to rank the cards as more or less important.

When they have finished ask for feedback about the process they used, whether they all agreed and if they think it's difficult or even impossible to decide the priority of needs.

**Hint:** Go straight on to the **Needs to Rights** Activity so you do not need to collect the **Wants/Needs** cards.

Adapted from A Right To Know, and Unicef



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## Activity 1

### Wants and Needs Cards

[enlarge and put on a separate sheet that will be printable and photocopyable]

Education	Protection from dangerous drugs
Regular visits from a social worker if you're in foster care	Access to information
Nutritious food	Decent housing
Clean water	Fashionable clothes
Money	Health care
Fresh air	Visits with family when in jail
Holidays	Computer
Cell phone	Protection from abuse
Latest CDs	Free travel
Fast food	Play and recreation