



Making Choices Game Instructions

Game Instructions

- Make copies of the Making Choices gameboard. Participants can work individually or in teams of 2 or 3.
- Provide each group with 15 candies (Smarties work well because there are 15 in each roll).
- Tell each participant or team their candies will become symbolic of their budget and not to eat their candies until the end of the game!
- Explain that for the purposes of the game, each person or team is to pretend they're married with 2 children.
- One adult in the household is working full-time and the other is working two part-time jobs. Both make minimum wage.
- The family has a limited budget and only 15 candies to spend.
- They have some tough decisions to make.
- Each participant must study their choices in each row and invest their candies with 1, 2 or 3 pieces depending on what's most important to them.
- Participants must make a choice in each row; they cannot skip a row.

Unexpected Expenses

- Now tell participants that there's been a change. One of their children has a strep throat and has to see the doctor, yet the family doesn't have health insurance. In order to get the child an appointment with the doctor and their prescription, the family must give up 2 candies.
- Tell the group to take off 2 candies and adjust the rest as needed.
- In another unexpected event, their spouse just got laid off with no severance pay. Instruct participants to remove 4 candies to adjust the remaining pieces ensuring that a choice has been made in each row; they cannot skip a row.

The unfortunate truth is that many of our friends, and neighbors are forced to make these tough decisions every day, right here in our community. Poverty is not a game, nor is it something families can escape easily. In fact, 1 in 6 residents in our region live in poverty, including 1 in 4 children. Only half of local preschoolers enter kindergarten ready to learn and 1 in 3 households lack a savings they can fall back on when times get tough an unexpected expenses occur. Join United Way of the Coalfield in changing these numbers and creating opportunities for every person in every community.