

Discuss It: Needs vs. Wants

It's important to know the difference between needs and wants.

Needs are items or services that you must have in order to live.

Wants are items or services that you would like to have, but can live without if necessary. To help you figure it out for yourself, ask yourself these questions before you buy something.

Answer Why Before You Buy

- Is this a need or a want? Why?
 - Do I have the money for this without borrowing any?
 - Is this the most important thing that I want right now? Why?
 - Can I wait three days to buy this so I can think about it more?
 - If I buy this, will it take money away from something I have been saving for?
 - Can I buy something similar for less money?
 - Will I be sorry that I bought this later? Why?
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What Mom Can Do

- **Be a role model.** Demonstrate to your children that you're willing to put aside personal wants in order to meet the needs of the family and others.
- **Exercise discipline.** Share with your children your budget plans for saving and spending, to ensure that the family is provided for.
- **Live on a budget.** Know your budget and use it as a guideline for all purchases.

