

Because I feel that understanding needs and wants is at the root of financial success, I chose the kindergarten lesson plan "[All I Really Need](#)." This lesson has children think about what they would take on an overnight stay to their grandma's house, and then consider if each item is something they really need to take, or just want to take. This experience is something that most children have faced, so it is easily relatable, and I thought that since the kids I was teaching would be doing a lesson outside of school, it should seem like fun and not school work. I also think that the issue of wants and needs comes up quite often, so it is good to have a lesson that serves as a springboard for further discussion and also a reference point.

The online lesson starts out by reading a book I do not own and couldn't obtain, however, the lesson is also supposed to be given over two days, and I did it in one, so the book was not missed. This lesson was taught to two of my own children and two neighbor children. I started out by asking the kids if they ever slept over at their grandma's house, and asked them what they usually take. The kids were excited to talk about this. I then divided them into two groups of two, and gave them each a bag to pack. I told them to go around the house and pick 6 things they would like to take to grandma's house. They were super excited to do this, and the first group that finished wanted to pretend to go to grandma's house.

I set out two circles on the floor, one labeled "needs" and one labeled "wants." I then had the kids sort the stuff, talking about their choices as they went. One boy really thought the football should go in the "need" category. He said if he didn't have the football, he would have nothing to do. I asked him if he would rather have a pillow or a football. He said football. I said, "So, you would sleep without a pillow in order to have a football?" He said he would, and I know he is serious. This made me realize that needs and wants are kind of relative. There are certain things that are essential for human survival, but that wasn't the question here. Even if it were, people can live without pillows. So, after both groups sorted their items, I had them each place the items in order of how much they needed them. The result was different for each child. I think this is also true for adults, and has a lot of implications. The big thing I think all people need to understand, is that choices have to be made, and when you make those choices, you deal with them. Society is trying to remove consequences, so for this lesson the take-home message was - decide what is important, and in the end if you have no pillow, that was your choice. Hope the football is worth it.

We ended the lesson by singing All I really need. I found a [Youtube video that plays the song and lyrics](#). so even though some kids didn't know the words, they were all able to sing along by reading. That song really hit home to the little girl, and she made some comments about it afterward. I also gave out the needs and wants assessment that came with the lesson plan, and found out that for all of his silliness and football talk, that boy does have a pretty good handle on needs and wants for a six-year-old.

As for if the lesson was successful, I think it was. The kids were forced to think about their wants and needs, and we had a rich discussion. Of course this does not end all discussions for the rest of their lives, but it was a really fun and thought-provoking opening discussion.

I would definitely teach this lesson again. With a full classroom of kids, of course it would be different. I would bring real objects from home, and have the kids sort through them with me. I would also definitely add the portion of the lesson where we prioritized our list of what we would bring. Since needs and wants are not cut and dried, I thinking ranking things comes closer to what we have to do in real life. I would also send home as a homework option the idea to repeat the activity at home much like my kids did, by going around their houses and collecting objects to take to Grandma's house, then putting them in order of how important each item is to take.

Overall a wonderful lesson plan I found on the website. The discussion that was opened was really important, and one that kids even found enjoyable.