

Balloon Budgeting Juggle Activity

Object of the Activity: Families juggle bills all the time, some of which are expected, and others are not. The activity is meant to simply break the ice within the group. It is also meant to help learners make the connection in one more way where the issue is juggling money and making ends meet.

Instructor: Blow up balloons prior to the program, writing various bills names and amounts of money on them. (Use a marker) Some examples may include:

- Rent \$600
- Phone \$50
- Heat \$90
- Electric \$60
- Water \$35
- Birthday Gift! \$15
- Birthday Gift! \$20
- Dentist \$75
- Veterinary bill! \$35
- School Supplies! \$75
- Food \$100
- Out to eat \$25
- Out to eat \$15
- Etc. \$

Participants form a circle. The instructor tosses in the first balloon/bill, calling out what it is. The participants' responsibility is to keep the "budget" afloat...by keeping the balloons in the air as the instructor adds more balloons in.

The instructor points out the occasional expense item when it is added in, such as a gift, dental appointment, school supplies or veterinary bill.

The activity concludes when the balloons hit the floor, and the instructor points out that they were unable to make ends meet that week/month as that specific bill could not be paid.

Follow up by asking the group...

- Could the participants identify with juggling bills in real life as they did in the activity?
- How did it feel to not meet their budget by not being able to pay that bill that hit the floor first? How would they deal with it?
- How do we manage our money in real life when we have many opportunities to spend as well as obligations to pay bills? (What if we kept the "birthday gifts" and "out to eat" balloons in the air for example and let the others fall?)