

Lachlan's Awesome Emporium: A Budgeting Adventure

Materials Needed:

- Play money (a mix of coins and bills, totaling around \$20)
 - A collection of 10-15 small items Lachlan would find appealing (e.g., a cool rock, a small toy car, a favorite snack, a new crayon, a pack of stickers).
 - Small, sticky price tags or pieces of paper and tape.
 - Paper and a pencil.
 - A small basket or bag for "shopping."
 - Optional: A simple calculator.
 - A sign that says "Lachlan's Awesome Emporium."
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1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Lachlan will be able to:

- Create a simple shopping list and budget based on a set amount of money.
- Distinguish between items he "wants" and items he might "need" (within the context of the game).
- Use basic addition and subtraction to calculate the cost of items and the remaining balance.
- Articulate the reasons behind his purchasing decisions, demonstrating an understanding of trade-offs.

2. Introduction: The Grand Opening (5 minutes)

Teacher's Role: Act as the "Business Consultant."

Instructions:

1. Present the sign "Lachlan's Awesome Emporium" and explain that he is the proud new owner and #1 customer of a brand new store! But before the store can open, the owner needs to know how to be a smart shopper.
2. Give Lachlan his starting budget (e.g., \$15 in play money). Explain, "This is your money to spend in your store today. A budget is a plan for how you will use your money. Our goal is to not spend more than we have."
3. Introduce the concept of "Wants vs. Needs." Explain it simply: "A 'need' is something you must have, like food or water. A 'want' is something that's fun to have but you can live without, like a toy. Today, we'll pretend some items are needs (like a healthy snack 'for energy') and some are wants (like a shiny toy)."

3. Activity 1: Setting Up the Emporium (10 minutes)

Teacher's Role: Act as the "Store Manager."

Instructions:

1. Lay out all the items for sale. Together with Lachlan, assign a price to each item. Write the prices on the sticky tags and attach them. Use a mix of prices, like \$0.50, \$1.00, \$2.25, \$5.00, etc. This is a great chance to talk about why some things might cost more than others (size,

coolness factor, etc.).

2. Ask Lachlan to sort the items into two groups on the "store shelf" (a table or spot on the floor): "Wants" and "Pretend Needs." This reinforces the concept from the introduction. For example, a bag of pretzels could be a "need" for a snack, while a toy car is a "want."

4. Main Activity: The Smart Shopping Spree (15 minutes)

Teacher's Role: Act as the "Cashier" and "Helpful Guide."

Instructions:

1. Give Lachlan a piece of paper, his pencil, and his shopping basket. At the top of the paper, have him write his total budget (e.g., "\$15.00").
2. Explain the task: "Your mission is to go shopping in your Emporium. You can buy anything you want, but you cannot spend more than your \$15.00 budget. Try to buy at least one 'need' item."
3. Let Lachlan browse the store. Encourage him to put items in his basket and write them down on his list with their prices.
4. As he shops, prompt him with questions to guide his thinking:
 - "How much have you spent so far? How much money do you have left?"
 - "You really want that \$5.00 car, but you only have \$4.00 left. What could you do?" (This introduces the idea of trade-offs).
 - "Is there something you could put back to have enough money for that?"
5. Once he is finished shopping, he brings his items to the "checkout" (where you are). As the cashier, add up the items together. Lachlan can use his list (or the calculator) to check your math.
6. He then counts out the play money to pay for his items. Help him calculate his change, if any.

5. Conclusion & Assessment: The Store Manager's Report (5-10 minutes)

Teacher's Role: Act as the "Business Partner."

Instructions:

1. Sit down with Lachlan and his purchased items. Ask him to give a "Store Manager's Report."
2. Use these discussion questions for the report:
 - "Show me what you bought. Why did you choose these specific items?"
 - "Was it hard to decide what to buy and what to leave behind? Tell me about a choice you had to make."
 - "How much money did you have left over? What could you do with that money?" (Introduce the idea of saving).
 - "What was the most fun part about being a smart shopper?"
3. Praise his thoughtful choices and success in staying within his budget. This discussion serves as the primary assessment of his understanding.

6. Differentiation and Extension

- **For Extra Support:** Use whole-dollar amounts only (e.g., \$1, \$2, \$5). Work side-by-side with Lachlan to write his list and add the numbers as he goes. Use a smaller budget and fewer items to make the choices less overwhelming.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Introduce a "10% off" sale on one category of items and have him calculate the discount. Or, add a "tax" of \$0.10 for every dollar he spends. Another idea is to give him a goal of saving a certain amount, for example, "You must have at least \$2.00 left at

the end."