

## Children's Lesson 2: Spending Money

### Objectives

- In Lesson 2, the children will learn:
  - To identify needs and wants
  - To describe what can happen if you spend money without a plan

### Lesson Outline

- Children will listen to the story *Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday* by Judith Viorst and discuss what happens in the story. After the discussion, the children will have two activities related to a topic in the story. This lesson will take a total of 60 minutes. Below is a suggested amount of time to spend on each section. A start time column is provided so you can plan according to your specific class time.

Start Time	Section	Suggested Duration
<i>Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday</i>		
	<i>Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday</i>	10 minutes
	Discussion	10 minutes
Activities		
	Where Did the Money Go?	15 minutes
	Needs and Wants Collage	15 minutes
Wrap Up		
	Clean up	Time Remaining
	Review lesson	
	Read another story, if time is available	
	Reunite with parents	

*Lesson adapted from work originally published in Economics and Children's Literature-Supplement 3.*

© 1998 SPEC Publisher Inc. St. Louis, MO

## Presentation and Leader's Notes

- The following is a step-by-step guide to Lesson 2, complete with snapshots of the various visuals to be used. Familiarize yourself with the notes and the content in advance but do not feel that you have to read the scripts verbatim. They are intended to guide instruction but not replace your good judgment as a presenter/teacher.

<b>Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday</b>	<b>Time: 10 minutes</b>
<p><b>Gather</b> the children in a semi-circle and make sure all are comfortable and can see you.</p> <p><b>Introduce</b> topic and <b>discuss</b>        Today we are going to talk about using money wisely.        How many of you have had your own money to spend?        How did you get that money? Did you earn it from doing chores or get it as a gift?        What did you spend your money on?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Allow the children to share their experiences with spending money.)</i></p> <p><b>Reintroduce the book</b>        I am going to reread the book <i>Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday</i>. Listen and try to remember all the things Alexander spent money on.</p> <p><b>Read</b> the story.</p>	
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Time: 10 minutes</b>
<p>Following are suggested questions and answers to discuss with the children. Feel free to adjust these at your discretion.</p> <p><b>Ask</b>        How rich was Alexander last Sunday?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(He had one dollar that his grandparents gave him.)</i></p> <p><b>Show</b> the children a one dollar bill and two rolls of pennies.</p>	

Discussion	
<p><b>Explain</b> that the rolls of pennies and the dollar bill have the same value. Each can be used to buy a dollar's worth of items from a store.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> What happens when you spend money in a store?</p> <p><i>(You give the clerk the money and you get to take the item you selected out of the store.)</i></p> <p><b>Explain</b> When we spend money, we give the seller our money in exchange for something we need or want.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> What did Alexander plan to spend his money on when he first got the dollar?</p> <p><i>(He wanted to save the money so he could buy walkie-talkies.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask</b> Was Alexander able to save his money to buy the walkie-talkies?</p> <p><i>(No, because he spent the money on other things.)</i></p> <p><b>Ask</b> Do you think Alexander planned to spend his money on all the other things he bought or did he just buy whatever got his attention?</p> <p><i>(Alexander did not plan to buy those items. He bought whatever got his attention because he thought he was rich.)</i></p> <p><b>Continue</b> Great answers, everyone. Let's move on to a fun activity where we can see how Alexander spent his money.</p>	



<b>Activity: <i>Where Did the Money Go?</i></b>	
<p>What item did Alexander spend the least amount on?</p> <p><i>(Flushed 3 cents down the toilet.)</i></p> <p>How do you think you would feel if you spent your money as quickly as Alexander did?</p> <p><b>Allow</b> the children to share what they think.</p>	
<b>Activity: <i>Needs and Wants Collage</i></b>	<b>Time: 5 minutes</b>
<p><b>Ask</b></p> <p>Alexander bought a lot of things with his money. Were they things he needed or wanted?</p> <p><i>(They were wants.)</i></p> <p><b>Explain</b></p> <p>Remember, last time we talked about needs being things you <b>MUST</b> have in order to live. Can anyone give an example of a need? <i>(food, clothes, someplace to live)</i> We also said that wants are those things we would <b>LIKE</b> to have but can live without. Can anyone give an example of a want? <i>(video games, fast food)</i></p> <p>Think about all the things grown-ups have to buy. Sometimes, grown-ups want to buy things they like but must pay for items that they need or that you need first.</p> <p><b>Ask</b></p> <p>Can you tell me something that your parents spent money on recently?</p> <p><b>Print</b> the children's responses on a flip chart, and ask if the item is a need or want. Circle, highlight or mark the items of need. If the answer is not in the best category, ask the child to explain and/or seek the input of the other children. Point out whether there were more needs or wants.</p>	

Activity: <i>Needs and Wants Collage</i>	
<p><b>Hand out</b> poster board, glue, markers, scissors, catalogs, magazines and newspaper ads.</p> <p><b>Instruct</b> the children to draw a line down the center of their poster board and print "NEEDS" at the top of one half and "WANTS" at the top of the other half.</p> <p>Next, have the children look through the ads for items that they need, as well as what they want. Have the children cut the pictures out and glue them on the side of the poster where they think the items belong.</p> <p>While the children are looking through the sales ads and flyers, ask them about other places they see or hear things being advertised to encourage them to buy them.</p> <p><i>(Commercials, billboards, radio, TV and their friends.)</i></p>	
Wrap Up	Time Remaining
<p><b>Ask</b> the children to help clean up the classroom area.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> the children to watch how they spend their money this week and remember to plan or think about what they will spend money on before they actually buy items.</p> <p><b>Read</b> another storybook if time allows. (This book should be selected from the suggested reading list.)</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Thank you so much for spending time reading and talking with us about Spending Money. Next time, we will talk about Saving Money.</p> <p>When the parents return, <b>hand out</b> one copy of the storybook to each family to take home. Make sure they take their collages as well.</p> <p><b>Dismiss</b> the children when the parents return.</p>	