

Alternative Activity – What Could You Buy?

Objective: Students will explain human reproduction, identify the potential outcomes of engaging in sexual behaviors, discuss the consequences associated with teen pregnancy, and examine the lifelong responsibilities and requirements of parenthood.

Common Core Tie-In:

- Introduction to Social Health: Course Standard #7
- Introduction to Human Studies: Course Standard #15
- Lifespan Development: Course Standards #12 a/c/d/
- Lifetime Wellness (9-12): Course Standards #6.4, 6.6, 6.8, 6.12, 6.13
- Health Education (6-8): Course Standards #7.1, 7.2, 7.3

Supplies Needed:

- Access to a computer with an internet connection
- Copies of item price sheet (see “What Could You Buy?” printout)

Directions:

This is a research activity geared toward High School students, but could be done as a research project for middle school students as well if time allowed. This project could be done as a homework assignment or in a computer lab during class.

Say: *We learned in the Cost of Raising a Child slideshow that it costs approximately \$12,710 to raise a child to age two. First, let’s find out where those costs come from. Research and try to find the lowest prices for everything on the following list and write them down in the blank next to the item.*

Say: *Some of you will not reach the full \$12,710 but remember, the items on this list are not the only things required to raise a baby. Unexpected expenses such as doctor’s visits and medicine, daycare (\$150+ per week), insurance, bills, housing, etc. can quickly add up. This list also doesn’t include solid food once they get off baby food, or milk once they get off formula or breast milk. This list is NOT all inclusive, just a basic idea to show how much cost there is to having a baby.*

Now, let’s research to find something fun you could spend \$12,710 on. Your imagination is the only limit! They could look for clothes, cars, make up, music, an apartment in Nashville, a vacation, etc.

Allow students to research for 10-15 minutes in as much detail as they want and then ask a few people to present their dream to the class.

Say: *Finally, let's spend just a few minutes researching how far your 12,710 dollars would go towards a college you want to go to. Will it pay for a year's tuition? Or even just your housing needs?*

Would you rather spend the \$12,710 bettering their future or buying something they want than to spend it on an unplanned pregnancy?

Allow students to discuss what they learned from this lesson.

Note: This makes a convenient homework assignment if your classroom lacks the technology to do the activity during class time.