

# KIDS' MARKETPLACE

An SOL-based Interactive Money Game for Elementary School Students

The Kid's Marketplace is a hands-on educational tool used to introduce elementary students to financial choices while having fun.

## Students learn how to:

- Make good financial decisions
- Understand the difference between needs and wants
- Recognize the importance of math skills in everyday life

Students are given an occupation with a monthly salary. They then get to experience the financial obligations that adults deal with every day.

## Ten stations are set up around the room to represent spending categories:

- Housing
- Contributions
- Clothing
- Personal Care/Medical
- Food
- Transportation
- Bank
- Fun
- Animal Shelter
- Chance (unexpected expenses that come up in life)

## Stations staffed with volunteers are set-up for students to visit.

Students visit each station, make spending decisions, and receive stickers corresponding to their purchase choices. They complete an evaluation at the end of the activity to determine what they learned and how much money they saved or overspent.



Students have provided many comments about what they have learned in the activity:

*"We learn how to get ready to be a grown-up."*

*"It's good to save money in the bank so you can always buy stuff you need."*

Virginia Cooperative Extension has been leading Kids Marketplace events in Arlington and Alexandria for more than 10 years.

To schedule a Kids' Marketplace at your school, contact Jennifer Abel, Senior Extension Agent, at 703-228-6417 or [jabel@vt.edu](mailto:jabel@vt.edu).



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