

Sheep In A Shop

By Nancy Shaw

Illustrated by Margot Apple

Ages 4 and up

Parent Guide

Key Ideas: Problem Solving and Decision Making

Before You Read

The goal of *Money on the Bookshelf* is to help parents talk with their children about money. Each story deals with some special ideas about money. The Parent Guide will help you talk about and use these ideas.

Ideas, Definitions and Objectives

Idea: Problem Solving

Definition: As things happen to us, we try to deal with them. Problem solving means finding what works best for us.

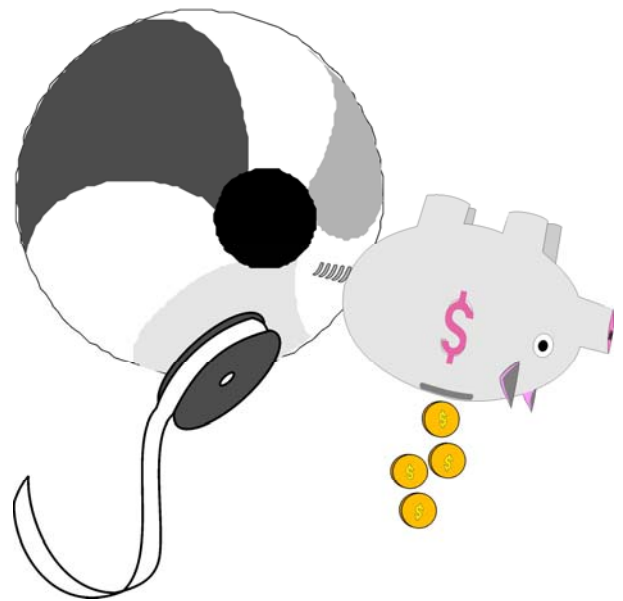
Objective: to identify the problem and what to do about it to make things better.

Idea: Decision Making

Definition: Many times there are different ways to do things or different ways to use resources.

Decision making means making a choice among what to do or what to use.

Objective: to identify the possible choices we have and select the one that we believe will bring the best results.



The Story

Some sheep go shopping for a birthday gift. They find they do not have enough money to pay for it. They decide to solve their problem by trading.

Something to Think About

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas

The sheep in the story have to choose a birthday gift.

There are many things to choose from.

We all have to make many decisions every day.

When there are many choices, it is harder to make a decision.

Like the sheep in the story, children are natural traders.

Children like to trade with each other.

This is solving a problem to get what they want.

Something To Talk About

Before you begin to read the story with your children, look at the cover of the book with them. Ask what they think the story will be about.

As you read the story with your children, talk about these ideas.

The sheep were trying to make a decision.

What was the decision?

Why was it hard for the sheep to decide?

The sheep did not have enough money.

How did they solve this problem?

Ask your child what "trade" means.

Ask if your child has ever traded for something.

Talk about trading.

What can your family do, make or grow to trade with others?

Something To Do

Baa Baa Black Sheep(Ages 4 and up)

This activity will help your child understand how the sheep solved their money problem.

Share this nursery rhyme with your children. Talk about how it relates to the sheared sheep in the story. (The sheep traded their wool.)

Baa Baa Black Sheep,
Have You Any Wool?
Yes Sir, Yes Sir, Three Bags Full.
One For My Master,
One for My Dame,
One For (your child's name)
Who Lives Down The Lane.
Baa Baa Black Sheep,
Have You Any Wool?
Yes Sir, Yes Sir, Three Bags Full.

Neighborhood Swap Meet (Ages 6 and up)

This activity will give your child practice in making decisions.

If you choose to use this activity, be sure to talk about it with the parents of all the children who will participate.

A decision-making method the children might learn is looking at all possible choices before making a trade.

A problem-solving concept learned might be that waiting to choose may mean the item they want is not available because someone else picked it first.

Get together with some neighborhood pals and trade or swap your unwanted stuff for something else.

Here is how to do it.

Have a "kids' meeting."

Have the children decide where and when to have the swap meet.

Decide how many toys or other items each child can bring to trade or swap. Decide how to do the trading. The children could draw numbers to see who goes first. Decide how many trades to make at each turn. Talk about what other rules you may need.

Hold the swap meet. Have fun!

Problem Solving for A Birthday Gift (Ages 8 and up)

This activity will help your child find ways to get a gift to give.

Your child has a problem. He or she has no money for a birthday gift for someone.

You have no sheep to shear. Try some of these ideas.

- Trading for something. Maybe your child has something to trade for a gift.
- Maybe your child can earn money doing odd jobs around the neighborhood.
- Maybe your child can make a gift from things you have around the house. Try these ideas.

Puzzle Piece Pins: Glue some old puzzle pieces together. Make sure they are not too big. Glue a small safety pin on the back. This will work as the clasp. Your child now has a piece of jewelry that will make a great birthday gift.

Puzzle Piece Frames: Find some old puzzle pieces. Cut a square shape from a cardboard box. Then cut the middle out of the square. Glue some puzzle pieces around the frame. Use the frame with a special picture you draw for the birthday person.

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