

# 2. Parents Stick Together

**OBJECTIVE:** Practice working together to make decisions about money.

**TIME:** 10 - 15 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

Write each of these scenarios on a flipchart page or on a blackboard:

**Story A:** The teen wants to buy fancy jeans and athletic shoes that cost \$75 each. The child maintains that everyone else has them and that his or her social life depends on wearing these items. One parent is against this request, and one parent is for it.

**Story B:** The child has been saving and now tells the parents that he/she wants to spend all \$100 of this savings on a fairly violent but complex computer video game. One parent is against this request, and one parent is for it.

**NOTE TO TRAINER:** If you don't have children in your training, ask an adult in each group to play a child or teenager.

**ACTIVITY:** Ask participants to stand and get in groups of three, with someone to play "dad," someone to play "mom," and someone as an older child or teen. If a couple of the groups have four participants, one participant can be the brother or sister.

Randomly assign group one of the two scenes. Alternatively, you could present both stories and let each group choose one. The first is for families with teens, the second is appropriate for families with younger children.

Ask the groups to spread out around the room and role play the scenario. Groups will be carrying out these role plays simultaneously. Ask the groups to play this scenario out for a few minutes, and then they will receive new instructions.

After two minutes, say, "OK, parents, tell your child to leave the room. Kids, don't really leave – just step back. Now parents, your job is to discuss this request and come to an agreement that you can both live with. Neither of you should give in or dominate the other. After you have made your decision, bring your child back to tell your decision." Monitor the groups.

**GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Debrief with the entire group. Keep the emphasis on how people behaved – the process, not the decision. Ask these questions:

- Kids, what did you do to get your way when your parents were in disagreement?
- Parents, what did you do when you were in disagreement?
- Parents, what did you do differently after you had your child leave the room?
- What decision did you come to?
- Were the decisions different based on the request – designer jeans versus video game?