

29.

Creating a Priority Mobile

OBJECTIVE: Introduce the concept that prioritizing what you want will help you get what you want.

TIME: 35 minutes

NOTE TO TRAINER:

It would be helpful to have an example of a completed priority mobile to show participants.

MATERIALS:

One metal clothes hanger per couple or family

A large supply of colored paper and markers

Scissors (1 per 2 families)

Tape (1 per 2 families)

Small safety pins (5 per family)

String (a piece about 2' per family that they'll cut into pieces)

ACTIVITY:

Two instructors (or an instructor and class member) perform the following role play without providing much introduction:

A couple is in their apartment and distressed about money.

Woman, very distressed: "We got a notice today from the landlord that we have to move by the end of the month. We haven't paid rent in two months!!"

Man (aside to class): "We have these arguments about money all the time!"

Man, also distressed: "You waste so much money! You spend way too much money on your nails. I saw the baby's sneakers cost \$50! It's stupid to pay \$50 for sneakers when the kid can't even walk."

Woman: "Well, you bought rims and a stereo for the car. Talk about a waste! It's OK for you to waste money, but you don't like me to buy stuff the family needs. And where did our rent money go!"

FREEZE.

Ask the class what they thought about the role play and what it meant to them. As you wrap up the conversation, emphasize the importance of "Prioritizing what you want and working together." This will bring you to the next part of the activity.

Directions for the Priorities Mobile:

Distribute the supplies and give groups 20 minutes to work together. Ask each group to follow these steps:

- a.** Discuss and decide what financial priorities you will write on your mobile pieces and then label your mobile diagram.
- b.** Fashion a triangular colored paper “sleeve” and tape it to cover your hanger. Write your one or two top priorities on each side of the triangle sleeve (same priority written on both sides or one priority on one side and one on the other side). Encourage participants to be creative and add colorful symbols and pictures to their words.
- c.** Cut two medium-sized geometric or other shapes and write your next most important priorities on these (two or four priorities total), perhaps with symbols added. Attach these shapes to either end of your triangle hanger with 3” to 4” lengths of string, either by tying or using pins.
- d.** Cut four smaller-sized geometric or other shapes and write your next most important priorities on (four priorities total), perhaps with symbols added. Attach these shapes to the two medium-sized shapes in any place you want, again using 3” to 4” lengths of string and pins.

When the time is up, call them together and let each couple or family present their creation to the whole group.