Daisy Making Choices Leaf
Activity Plan 1

**Purpose:** When girls have earned this petal, they’ll know more about how to make choices about using money.

**Planning Guides Link:** Financial Literacy

**Activity Plan Length:** 1.5 hours

**Resources**
- This activity plan has been adapted from the Daisy *Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting Money Counts* Leaf, which can be used for additional information and activities.

**Activity #1: Grab Bag!**
*Leaf Connection:* Step 1—Find out the difference between needs and wants
*Time Allotment:* 15 minutes

**Materials Needed:**
- Large bag
- Items from your house that include needs and wants. For example: food, clothes, water, jewelry and make-up

**Steps:**
1. Place items in large bag prior to girls’ arrival.
2. Discuss the differences between needs and wants with girls.
   - Needs are things are important to live (food, shelter, clothes, water, etc.)
   - Wants are things that are nice to have to live (toys, books, cell phone, computers, etc.)
3. Have girls take turns pulling out items from the bag. Ask the girls if they think the item is a need or a want. Encourage girls to think about why it is a need or want.
4. After going through the items in the bag, have the girls talk about some of the things they have at home and whether they are needed items or wanted items.

**Activity #2: Needs and Wants**
*Leaf Connection:* Step 1—Find out the difference between needs and wants
*Time Allotment:* 15 minutes

**Materials Needed:**
- Items from the previous activity (or products that could or would be used on a picnic)
- Play money (each girl should have at least “$10”)
- Sticky Notes with prices $1-$3 written on them
- Marker
Steps:
1. Use sticky notes to put prices on the items from Activity #1. Try to price the “want” items a little higher than the “need” items. Lay out items on the table with the sticky notes on them.
2. Have girls get into pairs. Tell the girls that they will be going on a picnic and that they will need to buy a few supplies before going.
3. Tell groups to pick 5 items from the table—three needs and two wants. Have the girls “purchase” the items from you.
4. After about 10 minutes, have girls share with the group what they chose to “buy.”
   - How much was the total of the five items?
   - Were they left with any money?
   - Was it hard to choose?
   - Do you think it’s hard for your families to make decisions about what items to buy based on your family’s needs and wants?

Activity #3: Goal-setting with Jumping Daisies
Leaf Connection: Step 2—Setting a goal to save for what you want
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Paper
- Pencils

Steps:
1. Discuss what a goal is with girls.
2. Have girls stand up and spread out throughout the room. They will be doing jumping jacks so ensure each girl has enough space.
3. Have girls do jumping jacks for 15 seconds and count how many they do.
4. Have girls write down the number of jumping jacks they did. Tell girls they are going to try to increase the number of jumping jacks they do by three.
5. Time the girls again for 15 seconds and see if they can reach their goal.
6. Try the game again for 30 seconds. Have the girls set a goal for how many jumping jacks they can do in 30 seconds. After girls reach that goal, have them increase it and try to meet the new goal. For a bigger challenge, try 60 seconds.
7. Discuss goal-setting with the girls and how it relates to money.
   - How can you make a plan to save money for something you want to buy?
   - How do you decide what you should buy?
   - What can you do to help yourself save money, rather than spend it?

Activity #4: Shoe Relay
Leaf Connection: Step 3—Help others with what they need and want
Time Allotment: 15 minutes
Materials Needed:
- Pencils
- Paper

Steps:
1. Have girls place their right shoes in a pile at one end of the room.
2. Have each girl take a turn racing to one end of the room to find her shoe, put it back on and race
back. If you have a large group of girls, you can have girls race against each other. If you have a smaller group, time the girls and have them do the race a second time, mixing up the order to see if they can do it faster a second time.

3. After the games, ask girls if they think shoes are a need or a want. Explain that in some areas of the world people don't have shoes to wear.

4. Discuss the concept of helping others. Ask girls if anyone has ever helped others.
   - Have you ever helped anyone?
   - What did you do?
   - How did it make you feel?

5. Talk about some things the girls can do to help others. Write down the list of ideas. Is there one idea that the troop can do together to help others? Do you need to spend money to help others?

6. Encourage girls to think of one thing they can do to help someone at home or someone at school.

**More to Explore**
- **Field Trip Ideas:**
  - Visit a local grocery store and find out the difference in prices of items that girls need versus items they want.
- **Speaker Ideas:**
  - Invite someone who volunteers to talk to the girls about helping others.

**Customize It!** If your group wants to expand work on this leaf or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award, including: Completing the activities as listed in the Daisy Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, completing this activity plan, attending a council-sponsored event or customizing activities. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the award if:
   - They can identify differences between needs and wants
   - They have learned about goal-setting and saving money
   - They help others with a need

**Family Follow-up Email**
Use the email below as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:
- When and where you will be meeting next
- What activities you will do at the next meeting
- Family help or assistance that is needed
- Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
- Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities
Hello Girl Scout Families:
We had a wonderful time today learning about money and costs and have earned the Making Choices Leaf.

We had fun:
• Learning about the differences between needs and wants
• Learning about goal setting and how we can set our own goals
• Discovering how we can help others

Continue the fun at home:
• Talk more about the differences between needs and wants.
• Ask your Girl Scout what she decided to do to help others at home or school. Help her with her commitment.
• Spend time helping others together.
• Look through the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting with your Daisy to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Daisy to Girl Scouts!

*This activity plan was adapted from Girl Scouts River Valleys.*