

Card 16: Economy

Introduction

To have a family can in some sense be compared to running a business together – there are a lot of practicalities to take care of, not least economic ones. There is no one right way to do things in this regard but it is always important to be able to talk about money and have a common view of the situation. If you are a single parent it can also be useful to get an overview of your economic situation.

How resources in the family are distributed affects individual's independence, possibilities and responsibility.

Aim with this meetup

To reflect together on ones economy, different ways to manage the family's economy and ones own economic situation.

Re-connect to last meetup

What did you bring with you from last meetup?

Is there something you would like to discuss further?

Different ways to budget in families

Personal economy: each one has their separate bank account

Shared economy: a shared account with shared income and expenses

Proportional economy: Each one puts a certain proportion of their income in a shared account

Warmup – End the sentence with the first thing that springs to mind

- Our family handles its economy...
- My economic situation today is...
- What I think about most regarding my economy right now is...
- The biggest challenge to my economic situation right now is...
- The most expensive thing about having children is.....

Discuss in the group or with a partner

Discussion 1

How are economic responsibilities shared in your family?

Possible follow up:

- *Do you think it is equal?*
- *Do you think it is fair?*

Discussion 2:

How much time do you spend thinking about your economy?

Possible follow up:

- *Do you feel your economical situation is problematic? How?*
- *How far into the future do you plan your economy?*

Discussion 3

Do you have a personal, shared or proportional economy?

(see info square on first page)

Possible follow up:

- *What are potential strengths and weaknesses with the different types of family economy?*
- *Do you think your system works well?*
- *Are there big differences in income in your family?*

Homework:

Go through your family budget. Make a document with income and expenses for a month. Are there any surprising revelations? Is it fairly distributed? Also consider costs for hobbies, free-time, clothes etc.

To sum up

Is there something you would like to discuss further?