



The activity

You can use this activity to talk with your kids about the way money flows through communities, and supports community services and activities. The bingo game cards show some of the common things you and your children might see in your community, or when you travel to other areas. You can talk with your children about what you see, where the money comes from to pay for them, and how important or valuable they are.

Set up

Print a bingo card for each player. Each player will also need a pencil, crayon, or pen. Or, place a printed bingo card in a zippered storage bag or in a page protector, and use dry erase markers to play.

What to do

Have kids look for and check or mark off the places, services, and objects on their bingo card as they see them. The first person to cover five squares in a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row wins.

Things to talk about

When you look around in a community, notice the role that money plays to support the places, services, and things you use.

Many buildings and services in our communities are paid for with public funds. Public funding usually means money the government collects to pay for goods and services. Other buildings or services are paid for with money from private organizations—that is, companies or individuals using their own money. Others are paid for by nonprofit organizations like foundations or charities. Often there is a combination of money from different sources.

Talk about the kinds of places, services, and objects that use public funding. Consider how the community benefits from sharing these. If it's not clear where the funding comes from, brainstorm for ways you could find the information. You might ask at the local library, at the town hall or government center, or the organization's website or toll-free phone number.

Discuss with your child why sometimes it might make sense to use money from a combination of different sources. For example, a hospital might be paid for by a corporation but also provide publicly funded services like Medicare. Or, a playground might use public funds but also take donations from individuals to keep it well maintained or purchase new equipment.

Bingo on the go

Fire truck	Park	Hospital	Playground	Public bus
Road	Historic site	Fire hydrant	Police car	Library
Rest area	Fire department	Free space	University	Airplane
Police officer	School	Bridge	Ambulance	Road work
Railroad tracks	Road sign	Police station	Fire fighter	Power line

Bingo on the go

Road work	Public bus	Restaurant	Bridge	Fire department
Police car	Park	Fire truck	Airplane	Rest area
Fire hydrant	Historic site	Free space	Hospital	University
School	Ambulance	Railroad tracks	Police officer	Power line
Playground	Fire fighter	Library	Road sign	Police station

Bingo on the go

Police officer	Road	Hospital	Playground	Fire hydrant
Restaurant	Fire department	Historic site	Railroad tracks	Police station
Ambulance	Power line	Free space	University	Tunnel
Fire truck	Library	Airplane	Rest area	Public bus
Road sign	Police car	School	Fire fighter	Park

Bingo on the go

Bridge	University	Road work	Police officer	Hospital
Ambulance	Tunnel	Fire truck	Railroad tracks	Rest area
Fire department	Road sign	Free space	Playground	Historic site
Power line	Police car	Public bus	Fire hydrant	Restaurant
Park	Fire fighter	Police station	School	Library