*Life Happens*

Objectives:

1. Families must provide their members with the basic necessities of:
   1. Food
   2. Clothing
   3. Shelter
   4. Taxes
2. Families must provide their children with the best possible education.
3. Maintain the physical and mental well being of each family member by providing:
   1. Health care
   2. Entertainment
   3. Vacations

The Equipment

1. Family Descriptions
2. Cost of Living Sheets
3. Life Happens Cards

Preparation

1. Students will count off from 1-7. Class members will divide into seven groups according to their respective numbers.
2. Each group is then given a Family Profile that indicates the make-up of the family (e.g., how many adults, children, etc.), the household income, the amount of assets, as well as any special circumstances.

During the Exercise

1. Each family must meet the needs of each member and develop and maintain the budget of the household. Families should calculate a monthly budget.
2. Periodically, *Life Happens* cards will be distributed that indicate an event or circumstance that will impact the family. Members of that particular family will have to make attempts to accommodate the events and circumstances of these cards.
3. The instructor will act as the government/state/and any other institution that has the responsibility of insuring the welfare and safety of children. Due to the lack of response or the irresponsibility of particular families, it may be necessary to take children into protective custody.

Ending the Exercise

1. The game ends after each family has had adequate time to manage their budgets, deal with their particular life circumstances, etc.
2. Each family will give an oral report describing their family (how many members, what kind of housing they live in, what their jobs are, etc.) and what an average week day and an average weekend looks like for their family. Each family will then explain what happened to them by way of life events, how they dealt with those events, and what the impact was on their family. The class will then discuss how well they think each family dealt with their particular situations.