

# The Game of Life

By Michael Rosenthal

**Purpose:** This program is designed to trigger discussion about living successfully with a bleeding disorder.

**Description:** This simulation game portrays various facets of life including; work, school, entertainment, health care, handling finances, etc., in a fun way that will get campers thinking about some of life's lessons (e.g. how education affects earning potential, how having or not having health insurance affects medical care, and how money and finances are managed). This game is also a tool for disseminating the NHF's prevention messages to children and adolescents.

**Materials:** Signs for booths (hemophilia center, café, etc. with price lists), snack foods and drinks, construction paper and glue for making paper chains, dice for the lottery table, rolls of tickets to be used as currency, playing cards, see-through container for charitable contributions, educational materials and a test for the school, identification cards to show whether or not campers have earned a diploma and health care insurance, or joined the gym.

**The Program:** Campers are seated and given the following explanation of how the game is played:

This game is called the game of life. Around the room are things you can do that you would find in every day life. We are going to play the game for 5 periods. Each period only lasts 10 minutes and there is a lot you can do, and one thing you must do. You must visit the hemophilia center for a check up in each one of the 5 periods. Because this game is pretend, even if you don't have a bleeding disorder in real life, we are pretending in this game that you do. Everybody is going to start with 10 tickets and these tickets can be used at all of the different things around the room. Here's a list of all of the other things you can do during the period.

- ◆ There's a cafe where you can buy a snack.
- ◆ There's a factory where you can earn money, for each 10 link paper chain you make, you earn 4 tickets.
- ◆ There's a school you can attend, and if you earn your diploma, you get paid a higher amount for each 10 link paper chain you make at the factory. Instead of earning 4 tickets for making a paper chain, with a diploma you get paid 7 tickets, and you get free medical care from the factory.
- ◆ There's a hemophilia clinic and everybody has to go in every period. The check up costs 3 tickets but if you have free health care from the factory because you earned a diploma, the check up is free. The hemophilia clinic gives pretend vaccinations and anything else you need to stay active.
- ◆ You can join a Gym and get some exercise that will help you stay healthy. Gym membership costs 2 tickets to become a lifetime member. The Gym has different games you can play.
- ◆ There's a table where you can play card games and win or lose tickets.
- ◆ There's a lottery table where you can buy a lottery ticket and win or lose tickets.
- ◆ There's a bank where you can get a loan that is repaid with interest. The bank will only give you one loan of tickets. You must repay your loan in order to borrow again.

- ◆ There's a place where you can make donations to charity.
- ◆ There's an assortment of carnival like games where you pay a ticket to play the game.

After the rules are explained, all the questions answered, and the initial 10 tickets are distributed to the campers, the game begins. The hemophilia center monitors the group to make sure each camper visits during each period. Campers are free to go to all of the other booths spending or earning money as they wish. A time keeper announces when the period is about to change to the next. The game is played and fun is had by all.

At the end of the game, the facilitator brings the group together to discuss how this game is like life, soliciting responses from the campers. Some suggested topics and discussion questions are listed below:

#### Starter questions:

How many of you have tickets left over? Raise your hand if you have more than 10, 15, 20,.....? How many have none?

How many of you owe the bank tickets?

How many of you earned a diploma?

How many of you gave to charity?

#### Harder questions:

How was this game like everyday life?

What did you choose to do in order to be successful at this game?

How many of you managed to get to the hemophilia center every period? Why is it important, do you think, to get an annual check up

What did you learn about Hepatitis A and B? How do vaccinations work?

How do you think regular exercise helps people with bleeding disorders to be healthy?

What do you think are the benefits of treating for a bleed right away?

If in real life, you have a bleeding disorder, is it important for you to start thinking about how you are going to get your health care while you are still a kid? Why?




How will education help you to be successful in life?

How will having a job help you to be successful in life?

**Game of Life Identification Card**

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Name




  

Diploma Gym Health Insurance

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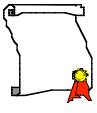


  

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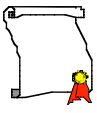


  

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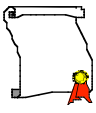


  

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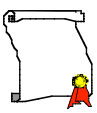


  

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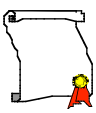


  

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