**Greater Than or Less Than**

Young children, especially those just learning math concepts, sometimes have trouble estimating the value of things. Because they don’t deal with money every day, they lack a realistic notion of what things are worth. Some children think that earning $100 a week is a lot of money. Others believe that they can buy a bike with the handful of coins they have saved in their piggy banks.

It is important to help children develop a reasonable approach to spending. By taking them shopping and talking about prices, we can promote a healthy consumer attitude even at a young age. In this way, we can help children become wise shoppers as they grow older.

Complete the activity below with your children, helping them recognize that some prices are greater than others. This activity also will reinforce your children’s math concepts of greater than, less than, and equal to—all very important in their school work.

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**
Thank you for downloading this Financial Literacy Feature. We hope the information and activities offered will be helpful in strengthening your family’s financial literacy skills.

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Activity
Two boys were shopping for prizes for their scout party. These are the items that they put on their list:

- Spider ring, $0.59
- Mini pinball game, $0.99
- Comic book, $1.50
- Squirt gun, $0.89
- Marbles, $1.39
- Action hero toy, $1.29
- Kite, $0.79

Directions: Circle <, >, or = to show how the price of each prize compares to another price.

a. Spider ring < > = Mini pinball game
b. Comic book < > = Kite
c. Water bottle < > = Action hero toy
d. Squirt gun < > = Marbles
e. Kite < > = Spider ring
f. Action hero toy < > = Comic book

Arrange the prizes according to their price, listing the least expensive item first. Include both the name of the item and its price. If two items cost the same amount, you may list either one first.

Lowest priced item ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Highest priced item ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Answers: a. < b. > c. = d. < e. > f. <