

Role Play Activity

Scenario 1

Child: Can I get my own computer?

Parent: No. We already have a computer in the family room that you can use.

Child: But I want my own in my room.

Parent: Why do you need your own when you can use the one in the family room any time you want?

Child: Because I have to share it with everyone else in the family. <pause> You know, all the other kids at my school have their own.

Parent: I don't believe that all the kids at your school have their own computers.

Child: Well, maybe not everyone but all my friends have their own.

Parent: I don't see any reason for you to get your own computer.

Child: But I NEED one!

Parent: You don't need a computer. You can use the one in the family room.

Child: *sigh

Scenario 2

Child: Can I get my own computer?

Parent: No. We already have a computer in the family room that you can use.

Child: But when I'm working on schoolwork in the family room, there are so many disruptions. If I had a computer in my room I would be able to focus on my homework more and get better grades.

Parent: Hmmm. I can see your point but I'm still not sure you need a computer of your own. <pause> We can make some family ground rules to follow when someone is working at the computer. How about no watching television, keeping voices down, and going into another room to talk on the phone?

Child: I also have to share the computer with the whole family. Everyone is always bugging me to get off when I still have homework to do. And sometimes I can't get on to do my homework because someone else is using it.

Parent: We can set a schedule for using the computer giving everyone an equal amount of time to use it.

Child: But some days I need more time if I have a report or big assignment. Setting a schedule might not give me enough time to finish everything I have to do.

Parent: You have a good point there. I'll think about it.