“After people play these Sim games, it tends to change their perception of the world around them, so they see their city, house, or family in a slightly different way after playing.”

--Will Wright, Creator, EA Maxis

ABOUT THE SIMS 3

The Sims 3 is an immensely popular game that invites players to explore and manage the choices and consequences of daily life set in a virtual world. Players must create an avatar and make choices about which careers, social life, personal relationships, physical health, hobbies and living arrangements. As in real life, these decisions impact overall quality of life for the Sims character. In-game meters update the player regarding physical and emotional health, so be sure to get enough sleep and eat regularly. Understanding the relationship between life-management the implications of decisions are lifelong skills that The Sims 3 encourages players to develop in a unique interactive environment. For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/1omPzFu

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Household Management

The Sims 3 allows players to control virtual lives of characters, from family needs to house improvements to luxury living. While there are many life aspects that The Sims 3 universe provides, it is a place to experiment with life balance and economic choices for individual households. Household management is defined as the management of money, careers, emotional responses, and needs of those within a household. It applies to both roommates and families living under one roof. While players make these decisions their Sims characters must live with the consequences.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Challenge your child to play The Sims 3 as an exploration of household management. As they play have them reflect on their experience. Ask them how a Sims household reflects their own household and what kinds of lessons about household management they can learn and apply from The Sims 3. Use this guide and the Player Impact Guide to become familiar with The Sims 3.

DISCUSS THE GAME

… the gameplay
- What career and skills did you choose? Why? [+1]
- What choices did you make to improve your house and why did you make them? [+2]
- How did you balance the Sim’s needs and wants? What prevents you from giving them everything? [+3]

… the game’s impact
- How does The Sims 3 model how we manage our household in the real world? [+1]
- How can The Sims 3 help us experiment with different ways to manage our daily lives and choices and show us the impact of our choices? [+2]

INTERACT WITH THE GAME

- Have your child pick two game achievements and describe how they were earned and what they mean. [+1]
- Have your child setup two challenges, and watch as they complete them. [+2]
- Play the game yourself, and complete the “Game Basics” section of the Player Impact Guide. [+2]
- Solve one challenge that your child sets up for you to complete with their help. [+2]

SHARE THE GAME

- Post a positive reflection on the CGI Facebook page: http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact [+2]
- Engage in conversations with other parents about your experience using the guide and playing the game. [+2]
- Host a “Game Slam” event, using these and other challenge questions you create. [+3]

Family Challenge: Play The Sims 3 with your child. Create a situation that has come up in your own household and have your child solve the problem. Create a video of their discovery. Post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact.