Economic Prosperity | Managing Money

SIMCITY 4: PARENT IMPACT GUIDE
Age 10+ | 1-2 Hours

“City planning just doesn’t sound that interesting, but when you’re actually the one making all the decisions and deciding where to put the freeways, all of a sudden it gets extremely interesting.”

-- Will Wright, Creator, SimCity

ABOUT SIMCITY 4
SimCity 4 is a city building and management simulator. Players are given the task of creating and maintaining an urban sprawl to their liking. While the game allows for creative city planning the player will also have to manage budgets, citizen happiness, and zoning. SimCity 4 shows the player the underlying work needed to create and sustain a modern urban city. For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/1hxte2J

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: Managing Money
In SimCity 4, the player is the mayor of a town one of the things the mayor must consider is how to budget, set taxes, generate revenue and spend. Just like in the real world, money management plays a big role in the success of a city over time. The player will need to make sure his or her city has enough money for important services, such as fire departments and police forces, while still expanding and growing city zones. A prosperous city comes from a well-balanced, profitable economy where funds can be shared between maintaining the city and creating new residential, commercial, and industrial zones to stimulate growth.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE
Challenge your child to play SimCity 4 from an economic perspective. As he or she plays, have your child reflect the experience. How important is money to a growing city? In what ways does managing the finances of a city mirror managing personal finances? In what ways does a budget limit what cities can do? Use this guide and the Player Impact Guide to become familiar with SimCity 4.

DISCUSS THE GAME
… the gameplay
• How do taxes work in your city? How do you manage them? [+2]
• What ways can you spend your city budget? How did it benefit the city? [+2]
• What are zones and how do these different areas affect your budget? [+2]
• What are other ways you were able to increase your city’s budget? [+3]

… the game’s impact
• How does SimCity 4 relate to personal money management? How can you use this model and experiment with a budget for yourself? [+1]
• In your city what was your priority with the budget? Why? [+2]
• If you were a city, what would be your own budget priorities (think about needs versus wants, and investing in yourself)? [+3]

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: Think of your family as a small city. Let your child be the mayor of the family city and discuss a budget for the next month. What are your revenue, spending and saving priorities? Create a video interviewing your child as if you were a budget reporter interviewing the mayor. Post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact.