Risk and Return Trade-Offs Game

Instructions:

- Place the seven Floor Markers (Mattress, Savings Accounts, CDs, Bonds, Stocks, Mutual Funds, and Real Estate) around the room.
- Tell the students that each of them has \$5,000 to invest. Ask them to stand up and show where they would put their money.
- When all of the students have chosen a position, ask them to explain their decisions.
- Explain that students may be able to make better decisions if they have more information about the situation.
- Give them different investment scenarios and ask them to show where they would put their money. Ask students to explain their decisions for each.
- Discuss how investment decisions can change depending on the circumstances.

Investment Situations:

Where will you put your money?

- 1. You have \$5,000 to invest. No other information is available.
- 2. You have \$4,000 that you'll need six months from now.
- 3. You inherited \$10,000 from your great-aunt; she has suggests that you save it for use in your old age.
- 4. You are just starting a career and can save \$50 per month for retirement.
- 5. A new baby arrives, and Mom and Dad plan to save \$100 a month for the child's college-education.

Adapted from *Learning, Earning, and Investing*, Lesson 12: Building Wealth Over the Long Term (pp. 158-165), National Council on Economic Education, New York, NY.

MATTRESS



SAVINGS ACCOUNT



CDS

3.50% 6-month CD

BONDS



STOCKS



MUTUAL FUNDS



REAL

