



MONEY TALK FOR PARENTS

Easy Tips for Teaching Your Kid Money Smarts

Have you ever noticed that some kids hoard their money, and others never have a dime? Why is it that one child will diligently save up for a toy they want, while another will fritter away their allowance and wonder where it all went? Of course, we all know that adults are like this as well— but how can you influence your child's money management habits, helping them become responsible money managers? Here's some tips:

- Give your children a pre-set amount each week. A good formula is 25 cents a week for kids under 3, starting at \$1 at age 4 and \$1 raise every year at their birthday.
- Try to get them to save at least 1/3 of their money in their savings account for long term savings. You'll be amazed how it adds up— and so will your child!
- Let your child pay the cashier for the item. The mental impact of actually handing over their hard-earned money is far more powerful than if you take their money, or if they pay you back later.
- Don't extend credit to your kids. Require that they save their money until they have enough to buy it. Don't make excuses or apologize. Just let them know how much money they have, and how much more they will need to purchase the item.
- Guide them, but don't make their choices for them. If your child wants to spend all of his money on silly putty— let him. You should talk to them about making wise decisions, but in the end the child should choose how they want to spend their money.

Answers from Secret Message: Saving a little can add up to a lot!

SAVING \$ENSE

Saving your Money, Saving your Earth

Gas & Electric Credit Union
2300 4th Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
793-3610 or 800-793-3610
www.gaselectriccu.com

THE SAVINGS TREE CLUB

SAVING \$ENSE

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MONEY-HOW IT ALL BEGAN...



Picture it...lunch time— you're sitting down to eat and are disappointed to find *another* peanut butter and jelly sandwich! Ugh! You notice that your friend sitting beside you has a ham and cheese sandwich that looks a lot better. You decide to trade. Believe it or not, this is kind of how money got its start in the world!

Long ago, when money did not exist (this was a long, long time ago!), people used to trade goods in order to get the things they needed. It was called "bartering". It worked okay for awhile, but there were a few problems. Consider this— let's say you were a fisherman. Well, day after day you would get tired of eating fish, so you would "barter" or trade with the baker down the street. He would give you some bread, and you would give him some fish. Seems like a good deal, right? Sure... but what if the baker didn't like fish? What then? Well, that's how money came about! With money- you didn't have to worry about that— you simply used it instead of goods to get the things you needed.

Over the years, people have used a wide variety of items for money including sea-shells, beads, tea, fish hooks, fur, and even cows! It was eventually decided to use precious metals molded into coins. The Egyptians were the first believed to use coins as money. Paper money didn't come along until some years later— created by the Chinese.

One thing is for sure— coins and paper money sure work better than swapping fish or trading cows!

ENTER TO WIN A GIFT CARD

Can you think of a time when you traded something? Just fill out the form below or go online to tell us. You will be entered to win a \$25 ToysRus gift card!

Name: _____

Age: _____

What have you traded?

Cut out and mail to:
Savings Tree Club
2300 4th Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

OR you may submit your entry on our website—
www.gaselectriccu.com.

CRAFT CORNER

Snow Dough

- ◆ 1 cup flour
- ◆ 1 cup water
- ◆ 1/2 cup salt
- ◆ 1 T vegetable oil
- ◆ 1/2 tsp cream of tartar
- ◆ 2 T white tempera paint
- ◆ 1 T white or iridescent glitter
- ◆ A few drops of peppermint extract (optional)



Ask for an adult's help for this project. Mix all ingredients except the peppermint extract in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture holds together—about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Allow to cool at least 15 before handling, then add the peppermint extract for a festive scent! The dough will keep up to 2 weeks in a Ziploc baggie in the fridge.

TRY OUT THIS RECIPE!

Peanut Butter Cup Hot Cocoa

- ◆ 1/4 cup chocolate chips
- ◆ 2 T half & half
- ◆ 1 T creamy peanut butter
- ◆ 2 cups milk



Place chocolate chips, half & half and peanut butter in a microwave safe container. Heat for 30 seconds. Stir and repeat until the mixture is smooth. In a separate container, heat milk in microwave for 1-2 minutes. It should be warm, but not boiling. Pour chocolate mixture into milk and blend well. Serve in mugs and enjoy!

DECODE THE SECRET MESSAGE!

Match up the symbols to the letter to decode a secret message. The answer is on the back of the page— no peeking!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		

WINTER WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words in the puzzle below!

- | | | | | |
|------|---------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Snow | Cocoa | Snowman | Snow day | Igloo |
| Ice | Icicle | Sled | Shovel | Flake |
| Cold | Mittens | Ice skating | Frost | Snowball |

S	U	M	I	C	E	L	T	F	B	R	L	F	B	M
B	N	S	H	O	V	E	L	I	R	G	O	B	S	S
S	M	O	A	C	E	L	E	C	O	O	R	D	N	V
N	P	K	W	O	A	H	A	I	O	G	S	G	O	B
O	C	C	O	A	T	U	M	C	M	M	S	T	W	O
W	O	L	B	R	O	I	G	L	O	O	L	B	D	F
B	L	N	D	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	B	L	A	L
A	D	H	S	N	L	O	O	E	E	L	T	O	Y	A
L	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	S	B	E	A	N	R	K
L	P	S	O	I	D	H	A	P	U	D	A	L	I	E
F	W	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	B	E	C

Here are some bookmarks for you to color and cut out. They show ideas of saving, spending and sharing— ways you use your money you earn or receive as gifts.

Cut on dotted line

<p>SAVE</p>	<p>SPEND</p>	<p>SHARE</p>
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