



REACH GOALS

The whole family can celebrate the achievement of budgeting, earning, saving and finally attaining a goal. It's a worthwhile accomplishment at any age, and your child can be especially proud of being financially responsible.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Your credit union is a great resource. As a member-owned, not-for-profit institution, our focus is on education and member-oriented financial services. We'd be glad to help you open your child's first savings account and to answer any questions you or your child may have.



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HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND FINANCIAL BASICS



How to help your child get started
on a lifetime of good financial
management

Start Smart – Start Early With Lessons About Finances

Financial management is an important skill that will have a significant impact on your child's quality of life as he or she matures to adulthood. Making wise financial choices can literally lead to a happier and healthier life. Poor choices can mean a less than satisfying life.

We all want the best for our children. That's why it's so important to give attention to this important life skill starting at a child's early age.

Experts say even very young children can start learning lessons about managing money that will stay with them for a lifetime. And the best teachers on this topic are close at hand: parents. Here are some basic financial management concepts you can introduce to your children, along with activities to reinforce them.



BUDGET

Developing a financial plan – a budget – is a skill that many adults have trouble mastering. But this is a valuable financial tool that's well worth the time and effort required. Children may enjoy setting a goal for something they'd like to purchase, such as a special toy or computer game, and then formulating a plan, with parents' help, for earning and saving enough to purchase it. As children get older, you can set both short-term goals (toys) and long-term goals (college or a car).



EARN

The primary way to obtain money is to earn it. Mom and/or Dad work to earn money to support the family, and it's a basic lesson that kids can start learning, too. A typical way to do this is to provide the child with

a weekly allowance in return for specific chores around the house. Parents may consider adding a bonus for extra work performed to reinforce the lesson. Children can also get creative with this by brainstorming ways to earn even more, by doing chores for neighbors or holding a yard sale for outgrown toys, for example.



SAVE

Saving a portion of everything you receive – earned income as well as gift money – is another bedrock of good financial management. It can be as simple as depositing part of a child's allowance in a piggy bank weekly. Opening a savings account at the credit union is a great way to introduce your child or grandchild to the wider world of financial management.



SPEND

This is the fun part – but it's also a teachable moment. Ask your child to stop a moment and think before buying that special item: Is this something that is truly worth the time and effort it took to save for it? Look at the price – can it be obtained elsewhere at a lower cost?



GIVE

Teaching a child to look beyond himself, toward the wider community, is another important task for a parent. Giving away a portion of income to a worthy cause can be a great parent-child project. Try to choose something that the child has an interest in already. For example, does she have a pet? Consider a donation to the local humane society.