



Money Sense for Your Children

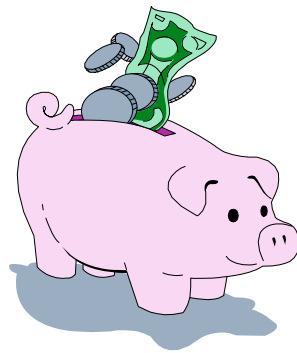
Lesson 4 The Spending Plan

Fact Sheet 06-96



Main Ideas

- \$ Writing down your income and expenses can provide a guide for planning your spending.
- \$ A spending plan can be a guide for achieving goals.
- \$ A spending plan needs to be simple and suited to your needs.



Key Words

- Spending plan** – A simple guide to show where money comes from, where it's going and how to use it to reach goals.
- Income** – The money you receive. (For children, the sources of income are usually allowances, gifts, handouts and earnings.)
- Expenses** – The money you spend to buy the things you need and want.
- Need** – Something necessary for life, such as basic food, clothes, shelter and medical care.
- Want** – Something you believe or think will make your life happier or easier, even though you can live

Money Management

“Money management” is simply knowing how much money you have and then planning how to use it. A good method of managing money is using a written spending plan. Children may not know the cost of items the family provides for them or how much they are spending until they see it written down.

A spending plan can help children of almost any age to clarify their ideas and goals. The plan is a tool to guide them in making decisions and choices. When you make a spending plan, remember the difference between needs and wants. A need is something necessary for life, such as basic clothing, food and housing. A want is something you believe will make life happier or easier, but it is not necessary for life. In other words, you could live without it.

Don't wait until children are old enough to earn money before you start talking about spending plans. As soon as children are old enough to get an allowance, introduce them to the idea of a spending plan. A plan can be for a week, a month or a whole year, depending on a child's age and maturity, and on the amount and frequency of allowance or other income. The plan for a 5-year-old would be very different from a 15-year-old's plan.

Making a Spending Plan

A spending plan is a simple guide to show where money comes from, where it's going, and how to use it to reach goals. Making spending plans with your children can help you decide how much allowance each child needs.

To make a spending plan, your child needs to know the answers to three questions:

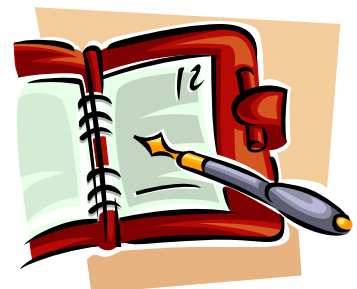
1. How much money do I have for spending?

2. What are my goals?
3. How much will these goals cost?

Where Do You Start?

You can begin by keeping a spending record for each child for a few weeks. Make sure that you or your child writes down all the money spent and what it was spent on.

After three or four weeks of keeping a record, you are ready to make a spending plan. By this time, your child will know where the money is being spent and will have a better idea of what expenses to plan for.



Steps to making a spending plan

1. Write down expected income for the coming week and total. Examples include allowance, earnings and gifts.
2. Write down the expenses you are planning on during the week. Include the amounts to be saved and shared. Add them all together. How does this compare with income? If planned expenses are more than expected income, decide on which expenses to cut back or plan to increase income by looking for ways to earn money.
3. During the week, keep track of expenses. At the end of the week, add them up.
4. Now compare your planned expenses and your actual expenses.
5. Make necessary changes in your spending plan for next week. If expenses are out of

line with income, you will have to make changes in one or both. Are there items of spending, saving or sharing that should be cut out or reduced? Should the allowance be increased? What about earning more money?

The success of the plan depends on frequent review of where money is going.

Things To Do

Parents

You may want to work on a spending plan for the whole family, either alone or in a family meeting with your children, if you do not currently have a plan.

Preschoolers, 6- to 12-Year-Olds, and Teenagers

Use the following charts to help each child work out a personal

spending plan. For a preschooler, the plan will be very short and simple. You may want to make up your own forms. The important thing is to have a written outline of income and expenses (including sharing and saving) to use as a guide. A spending plan answers the question, "Can I afford this?" which children, like adults, have to face daily.

Help your children learn more about their needs and wants. Use the chart, "Personal Expenses of Children," in this lesson to help you. Filling out the chart will help both you and your children understand their money needs better.

Discuss the family spending plan and get children's ideas of how to reduce expenses or increase income if the plan needs changes.

Planning for the Future

List your needs and wants to save for during the next _____ (week, month, six months, year, etc.)

Activity/Item	Date Needed	Cost	Amount to Save Weekly	Weeks Needed to Save
Birthday Gift	June 30	\$10.00	\$2.00	5 weeks

Income

List the income you expect to receive.

Where I Get Money	How Much Money I Get		
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Allowance	\$5.00		
Totals			

MY SPENDING PLAN

Month _____

INCOME I EXPECT	First Week Date:	Second Week Date:	Third Week Date:	Fourth Week Date:
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MONEY TO SPEND	Planned	Spent	Planned	Spent	Planned	Spent	Planned	Spent
School Supplies								
School Lunches								
Club Dues								
Recreation Movies, Books, Skating, etc.								
Snacks								
Hobbies								
Grooming Aids								
Clothes and Shoes								
Other								

MONEY TO SHARE								
Gifts								
Charity								
Church								
Other								

MONEY TO SAVE								
Savings Account								
Special Items - Bicycle, Dress, etc.								
Special Events - Camp, Trip, etc.								
Other								

TOTAL								
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Personal Expenses of Children

Possible Needs or Wants

Under Age 6

Small toys and playthings; books and videos; ice cream or snacks; crayons and paints; gifts for others; church

Ages 6 to 9

Games and toys; books and magazines; snacks; hobbies; sports equipment (skateboard, skates, bicycle, game balls); school lunches, school activities; gifts for others; church and contributions; club dues and expenses; field trips

Ages 9 to 12:

Snacks; school lunches; school expenses and activities; hobbies and special projects; books and magazines; CDs; sports equipment; bicycle; games to play at home; club dues and expenses; trips and special events; gifts for others; church and contributions; some clothing items; some grooming supplies; savings for specific purposes

Ages 13 to 15:

MOST items in age group 9 to 12 and also possibly grooming equipment and supplies; cosmetics; clothing and jewelry; movies and concerts; camera and supplies; bus fare or other transportation; money for get-togethers with friends

Ages 16 to 18:

MOST items in age groups 9 to 12 and 13 to 15 and also possibly clothing or uniform for a job; gasoline (family or own vehicle); own vehicle; vehicle license and insurance; own telephone; savings for education or travel

Needs and Wants of Your Children

Under Age 6

Ages 6 to 9

Ages 9 to 12:

Ages 13 to 15:

Ages 16 to 18:

Additional Resources:

National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc. Consumer Savvy

<http://www.n4hccs.org/shop/products.asp?action=list&cat=10&subcat=63&l=L1>

Be the "E" (Entrepreneur)

<http://www.n4hccs.org/shop/products.asp?action=list&cat=10&subcat=65&l=L1>

Coming in the next lesson, we will look at the pressures of advertising and how you and your children can deal with these pressures.

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