

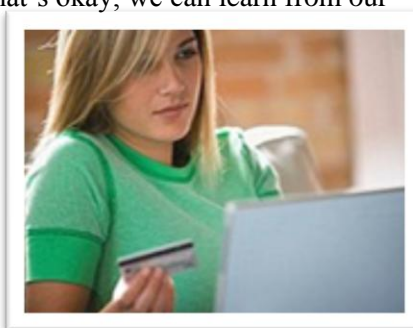
Raising Money \$mart Kid\$



All parents teach their children about money, whether intentionally or not. Children hear how parents talk about money, credit cards and bills and see their financial behaviors, too. It's important for parents to model good financial practices for their children. Share teachable moments with your children whenever the opportunity pops up, such as comparison shop together for an item or mention how you are saving to buy something you want versus simply charging it. Teach your child that money is limited, so we must put our needs ahead of our wants.

Give your children an allowance so they can learn to spend, save and give. Children will make mistakes with their money and that's okay; we can learn from our mistakes. A \$5 money mistake now could prevent an expensive mistake years later. Allowance views include: Children should work to earn any allowance; children should receive an allowance as part of the family; and a combination of those two. Decide: How much (based on age, parents' income)? What are children are being paid for (chores, extra work, good grades)? Kids' expenses (candy, entertainment, clothes)?

A piggy bank (or box or jar) can be a great way for your child to learn the importance of saving. Encourage your child to set goals and write them down. A savings chart or graph can be great for older kids to track their savings progress. "The Three Banks" is a bank with slots for saving, spending and giving (or use three separate banks). "The Four Banks" concept adds investing or long-term savings. And take your children to a local bank to open up a minor savings account!



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