



9 Ways to Teach Your Kids About Money

BECOMING A **\$SMARTSAVER**

- 1. Use a clear jar or transparent piggy bank to save.** Yesterday, they had two quarters and five dimes. Today, they have two quarters, five dimes and a nickle. They see the money growing—talk this through with them and make a big deal about it!
- 2. Set an example.** Little eyes are watching you. Set a healthy example for them—they'll be much more likely to follow it when they get older.
- 3. Show them that stuff costs money.** Do more than just say, "That toy costs \$5." Help them take a few dollars out of the jar, take it with them to the store, and physically hand the money to the cashier.

HELP TWEENS GET A **\$SMARTSTART**

- 4. Show opportunity cost.** That's just another way of saying, "If you buy this, then you won't have the money to buy that." At this age, your kids should be able to weigh decisions and realize that each decision has a consequence.
- 5. Give commissions, not allowances.** Don't just give your kids money—pay them commissions based on chores they do around the house. This will help them understand that money is earned—it's not just given to them.
- 6. Stress the importance of giving.** Once they start making a little money, be sure you teach them about giving. Eventually, they'll see how giving doesn't just affect the people they give to, it affects the giver as well.

PREPARING FOR A \$SMARTFUTURE

- 7. Give them the responsibility of a savings or checking account.** This takes money management to the next level, and it will prepare them for (hopefully) managing a much heftier account balance when they get older.
- 8. Help them find a job.** If your teen needs money (and what teen doesn't need money?), then help them find a job. Who knew that working was a great way to make money?
- 9. Teach them the danger of credit cards.** As soon as your kid turns 18, they will begin to receive credit card solicitations—especially once they're in college. Teach them why managing debt is extremely important so they don't become the next credit card victim.

Helping get your kids a \$SMARTSTART is going to take an investment of time on your part, and it won't always be easy, but if you want your children to understand how to successfully manage their money when they get older, beginning early will be completely worth it.

Remember: If you don't teach your kids how to manage money, somebody else will. And that's not a risk you want to take.



\$SMART A FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

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