



Smart Money Lessons for Your Kids

Do you remember who taught you the most about money? Parents are important role models for their kids in many ways. Teaching children to make good choices about money when they are young helps them build skills they will use throughout their lifetime.

Budgeting is key

Help your children understand the difference between “needs” and “wants.” Talk to them about how you stick to your budget, and the tough choices you sometimes have to make to be responsible. Involve them in family spending decisions. If they earn an allowance or have a job, help them budget their money by creating a spending and savings plan.

Teach your children about credit

Explain to your children that a credit card is not “free money” but money that must be paid back with interest. Be sure to explain why credit cards must be used responsibly.

Comparison shop to find good deals

Involving your children in shopping or coupon cutting activities will help them appreciate the importance of reducing expenses whenever they can. Bring them to the grocery store and ask them to help you comparison shop for certain items to find the best deal. Make it fun! If your children are older, let them try to do the shopping while staying within the budget you have set.

Setting aside money for savings is important

Saving even small amounts of money can grow into big amounts. Teach your children why it's important to always keep money in savings for a “rainy day” and why they should put money into savings first before spending it. Teach them about interest and how money can grow over time. If your children do not have savings accounts, help them open one and bring them to the bank or credit union to make deposits.

Set a good example

Children learn a great deal from watching their parents. Show your children how you make smart money decisions.

Parents: Need Extra Help Managing Your Money?

If you need extra help managing your money, the **Financial Education Network Directory** provides a list of free and low-cost classes, workshops, and counseling to make it easier than ever. Learn more at nyc.gov/ofe or call 311.



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