



# ADVENTURES IN MATH

Teaching kids about money—tips and resources for families

Money Talk | Conversation Starters | Fun Books About Money for Kids  
Family Money Game and Activity



# START TALKING ABOUT MONEY WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG



**A**s parents, we recognize the importance of mathematical knowledge in today's world. We encourage our children to succeed in math and hope that they'll use those skills to manage their personal finances when they reach adulthood.

Children usually recognize the importance of money and its influence at an early age when they begin to count their first pennies and nickels to make a small purchase, such as a toy. With these early experiences come opportunities for parents to teach important lessons about saving, spending, and giving.

The key to providing our children with the tools for responsible money management is to begin talking about money while they're still young. To help you get started, please enjoy these activities and ideas with your family.

Remember that children will probably make financial mistakes on their road to adulthood, but with consistent positive support and sound lessons about money, they will realize that they have the ability to successfully manage their own financial futures!

## IDEAS TO START THE CONVERSATION

### For children in grades K–2:

- Talk to your child about how we use money to buy things that we need (like food) and things that we want (like a toy).
- Share with your children the ways you give your time or money to those less fortunate and invite them to participate in the ways that you give to others in need.
- Talk to your child about earning money and your job or the jobs of other family members.
- Introduce the idea of an allowance for completing small chores like setting the table.
- Give your child a piggy bank or special box to save money for things that they want.

### For children in grades 3–8:

- Involve children in routine shopping trips and show them the value of using coupons or comparing prices to find the best deal.
- Talk about spending limits and how you make decisions between purchasing needs and purchasing wants.
- Consider opening a savings account for your child and have your bank representative talk about how money in a savings account is safe and can grow (the concept of interest).
- Discuss charitable giving and how proper budgeting can create opportunities to help others.

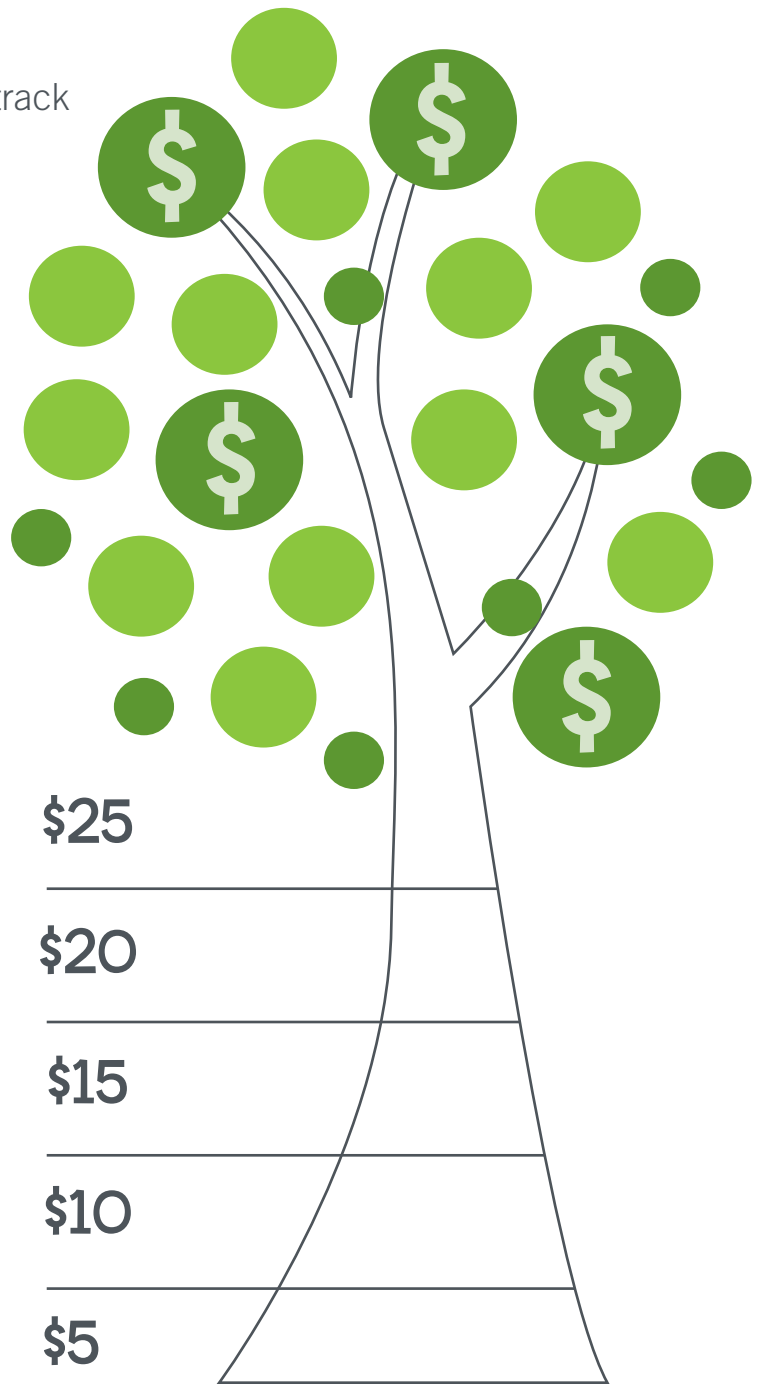
# Money Tree

Have kids set their own savings goal and track their success with this Money Tree chart.

1. Find a high-traffic spot to hang this page in your home.
2. Each time your child receives money—such as an allowance, money from the tooth fairy, or as a gift—he or she can color in his or her progress on the money tree to watch the savings grow!

## Wants vs. Needs

With your child, make a list of recent purchases, such as grocery items, movie tickets, etc. Which purchases were wants and which were needs? Discuss the difference. Emphasize that planning helps us use our money wisely, so that we have enough to pay for what we need first, and then for what we want later on.



## BOOKS FOR DEVELOPING MONEY SENSE

**For younger children:** Enchanting stories with a mathematical lesson about money.

- *Quarter From the Tooth Fairy* by Caren Holtzman
- *Once Upon a Dime: A Math Adventure* by Nancy Kelly Allen

**For older children:** Intriguing lessons on earning, saving, spending, investing, and donating money.

- *The Kids' Money Book* by Jamie Kyle McGillian
- *The New Totally Awesome Money Book for Kids* by Arthur Bochner and Rose Bochner

## THREE-JAR BUDGETING

Introduce your child to the concept of making a budget—a plan for spending, saving, and giving his or her money.

Give your child three jars; one labeled SPEND, another labeled SAVE, and a third labeled GIVE. Encourage your child to make a plan to distribute any money that is earned or received among the three jars.

**ADULT TIP:** How many times have you asked yourself, “Where does the money go?” Use this easy, interactive calculator to categorize where you’re spending your money so you can make a budget: [regions.com/budgetcalculator](https://regions.com/budgetcalculator).



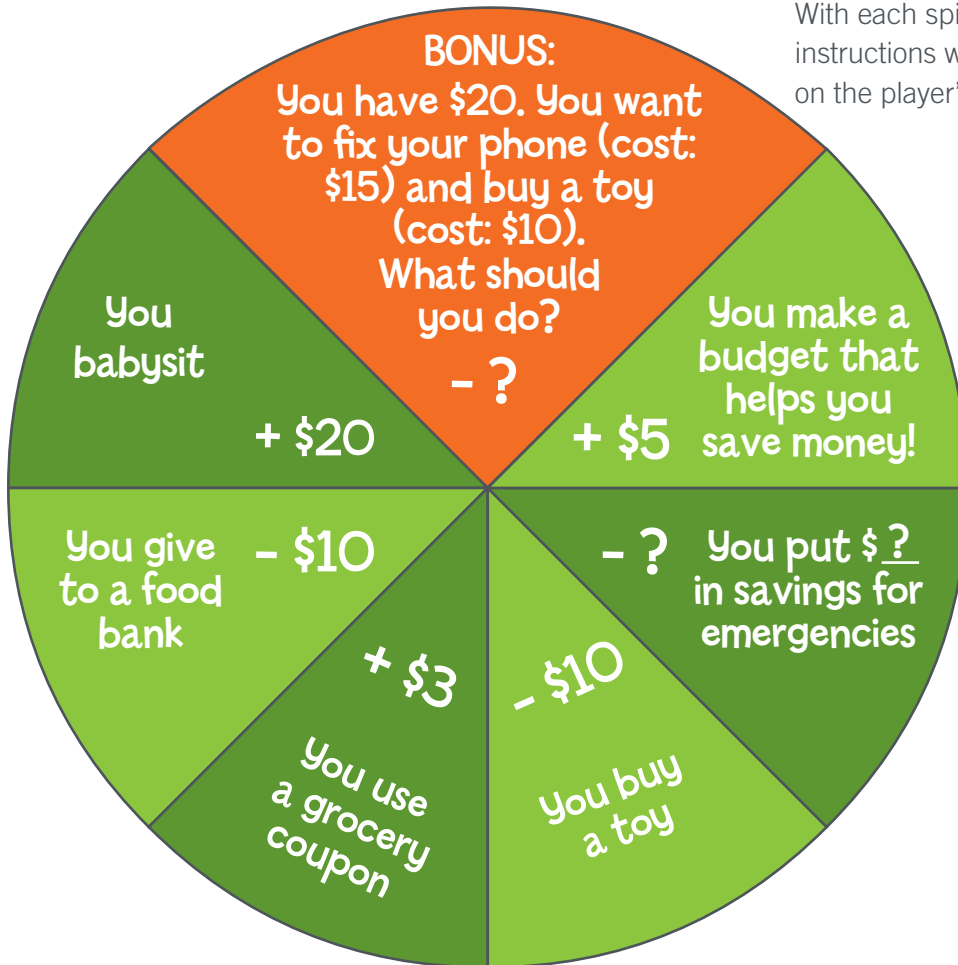
# FAMILY MONEY GAME

Spin your way to spending, saving, and giving fun in this fast-paced money game!

**Goal: The player with the most money wins!**

- Each player writes his or her name on a piece of paper to track his or her money.
- **Every player begins with \$10 of pocket money.**
- Use a paper clip and pencil to create a spinner for the wheel.

- Put the paper clip in the center of the wheel and with the tip of the pencil, hold the paper clip in place.
- Players take turns spinning the paper clip. Each player gets three spins.
- The player can add or subtract money according to the instructions on the space. With each spin, discuss as a family if those instructions would be a good decision based on the player's current pocket money.



**ADULT TIP:** Make sure your cash flow is greater than what you spend. Analyze your spending each month with this handy tool: [regions.com/cashflowcalculator](https://regions.com/cashflowcalculator).

**REBUS RIDDLE!** What did the little boy say when he borrowed 100 pennies?

