



## Save – Spend – Share

One of the most fundamental lessons about money relates to the various ways that we use it. In addition to earning it, we tend to save, spend, and share money. Helping our kids understand the importance of balancing these three transactions will help them make smarter financial choices as they grow.

Whether you realize it or not, our children are quite observant and often pick up on our unspoken cues about money. They most likely are watching as we pay bills, buy things at the store, set spending limits, and prioritize saving. We may have mixed emotions about what aspects of our financial lives we are willing to share. Some make us prouder than others and this is normal. Take every opportunity to educate your child about the wise use of money, even when you may not have it all figured out. Our day-to-day transactions, both good and bad, present endless teachable moments.

Leverage the following resources to engage your kids in some educational activities as well as an on-going dialogue that promote healthy financial habits. Look for everyday lessons that you can explore as a family. Here are a few additional resources to expand the learning:

- [Teaching Your Child About Money](#) – Read this blog post for some sharable money lessons related to handling an allowance, opening a savings account, financial goal-setting, and becoming a smarter consumer.
- [Trouble With Money Book Reading](#) – Watch this video of a reading of the Berenstain Bears classic book *Trouble With Money* with your child and discuss the following discussion questions:
  - At first, where did the Bear cubs get their money? How did they spend their money?
  - How do you and your children feel about how you get and use your money?
  - What other resources did the cubs use to earn money?
  - How did Mama and Papa Bear feel about how the cubs earned money? Why did the cubs want to earn money?
  - What did Papa Bear want the cubs to learn about money? What would you like your kids to learn about money?
  - What did the Bear family do to help the cubs learn to save money and plan ahead? Are there any lessons that your family can take from this story?
  - What is the meaning of these figures of speech related to money?
    - Money doesn't grow on trees
    - To be made of money
    - Nest egg
    - Saving for a rainy day



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When it comes to money, we have several options on how to use it:

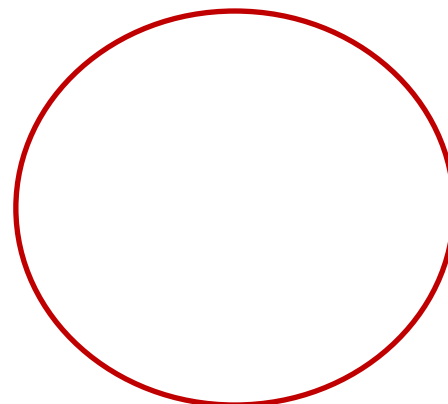
- **SAVE:** We can put our money away in a safe place for the future
- **SPEND:** We can exchange our money for a product or service
- **SHARE:** We can give away our money to others who need it

Think about how you would like to use your money. Discuss the following questions with your family:

- Which is more important to you right now: saving or spending? Why?
- How do you plan to spend your money? What is your timeline for spending?
- If you decide to spend some of your money, can you commit to saving an equal amount?
- How could you share your money with others? What impact would that have?

Color in the circle indicating how much of your money will go to each category:

- **Save:** Experts recommend saving 25¢ of every dollar.  
How much will you save? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Spend:** Experts recommend spending no more than 50¢ of every dollar. How much will you spend? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Share:** Experts recommend saving 25¢ of every dollar.  
How much will you share? \_\_\_\_\_



Consider the following tips for managing your money:

SAVE	SPEND	SHARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Put your savings in a piggy bank or savings account (to earn interest)</li><li>• Identify a savings goal and work to achieve it</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wait until you have the money before spending it</li><li>• Compare prices and watch for sales</li><li>• Consider trade-offs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Donate money to a cause that is important to you</li><li>• Ask for matching donations to increase your gift</li><li>• Share your time and talents</li></ul>



be your best you.

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D	F	C	T	V	I	R	U	W	O	B	E	D	F
N	T	R	N	T	E	S	O	T	A	K	R	O	K
E	R	E	U	T	H	R	T	E	D	T	U	L	N
C	A	D	O	D	G	S	E	G	V	Y	T	L	A
N	D	I	C	N	O	R	D	D	T	S	U	A	B
E	E	T	C	I	I	N	N	U	S	H	F	R	Y
X	O	U	A	F	L	N	A	B	A	A	U	N	G
C	F	N	S	F	N	H	T	T	V	R	N	R	G
H	F	I	G	H	A	I	K	E	E	E	S	A	I
A	S	O	N	B	N	S	M	A	R	T	O	E	P
N	P	N	I	E	E	T	S	T	N	E	C	E	D
G	S	T	V	G	I	F	T	E	N	O	S	A	O
E	S	S	A	G	A	I	S	P	E	N	D	T	G
I	S	F	S	R	E	V	N	E	Y	E	N	O	M

MONEY  
GROW  
CREDIT UNION  
EARN  
EXCHANGE  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT  
DONATE  
SMART  
SAVE  
SPEND  
GIFT  
PIGGY BANK  
CENTS  
DOLLAR  
BUDGET  
FUTURE  
SHARE  
HABITS  
TRADE-OFFS  
INTEREST