

# Centsible parenting

▶ A newsletter for parents of fifth grade children

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

*Mr. Baker and Mrs. Cooper are sitting next to each other at a school sports event.*

*Mr. Baker says, "We received the Centsible Parenting newsletter this year and learned several new ideas to help Jamie increase her money management skills." "Not only is Trevor learning, but our whole family is doing a better job of talking about finances," says Mrs. Cooper.*

Children will learn and develop decision making, financial management and consumer skills based upon what they talk about with their parents and observe them doing. Remember, in general you need to:

- guide and supervise rather than direct and dictate
- praise instead of criticize
- not use money as a reward or punishment
- let your child learn by both successes and mistakes
- be consistent
- include your child in appropriate financial discussions
- be good role models and provide money management experiences involving your child

## LOOKING AT WEBSITES

Many websites are related to children and money. Websites come and go, but if you get to a couple, you'll usually find links to more sites.

Be cautious as you and your child navigate the websites. It's a good idea to start with KidzPrivacy. This Federal Trade Commission website includes information for children and parents about online privacy issues for families. The website address is <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/kidzprivacy/index.html>.

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco sponsors Fedville, which is designed for 9- to 12-year-olds, their parents, and teachers. Fedville is a town where children learn about money, saving, banking, and the economy. It includes games and puzzles. The website address is <http://www.frbsf.org/education/fedville>.

## VISITING THE BANK

Children group up watching their parents go to the bank. They see adults writing checks, depositing cash, getting money from an ATM, and going over bank statements. But at what point do children begin to understand how all the pieces fit together?

Use these routine tasks as an opportunity to teach your child about the role of money in our society. Share little bits of information each time and then respond to questions. Examples could include where you get your money, what the bank does with money, where the money in an ATM comes from, or why you use a bank.

Take your child with you when you go to the bank. If possible, introduce your child to bank personnel and arrange a brief tour of the facility.

## LEARNING CONTINUES

Adults may not feel comfortable teaching children how to manage money because they feel they're not "super managers" themselves. However, it is not necessary to be an expert to provide appropriate experiences for children. The following resources are available at your county extension office to help you strengthen your own money management skills.

### Money Mechanics

Record Keeping (PM 1452a&b)  
Communication (PM 1453)  
Spending Plans (PM 1454a&b)  
Income Taxes (PM 1455)  
Home Insurance (PM 1456)  
Life Insurance (PM 1457a&b)  
Health Insurance (PM 1458a&b)  
Credit (PM 1459a&b)  
Buying a House (PM 1460a&b)  
Owning a Car (PM 1461a&b)  
Saving and Investing (PM 1462a&b)  
Estate Planning (PM 1463)

PowerPay Credit Payment Worksheet  
(PM 1873b)

Reduce Your Debts the PowerPay Way  
(PM 1873c)

When There's an Error on Your Credit Card Bill  
(NCR 606-2)

Your Credit Report (NCR 606-3)

Divorce Matters: Separating Your Finances  
(PM 1719)

Take Control of Your Spending (PM 1673)

Divorce Matters: Managing Income and  
Expenses (PM 1720)

Stress: Taking Charge—Using What You Have  
to Get What You Want (PM 1660h)

Living in Stepfamilies: Making Financial  
Decisions (PM 1376)

Stress: Taking Charge—Coping with Unem-  
ployment (PM 1660i)

Stepping Stones for Families: Financial and  
Legal Issues (PM 1838)

Getting Organized (PM 1121)

The Allowance Game (PM 1776)

Tracking Your Spending (PM 1918)

The Spending Game (PM 1103)

Using PowerPay to Pay Off Debt (PM 1873a)

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This newsletter is published for families with fifth grade children by Iowa State University Extension. For more information about parenting education, contact your local county extension office or access the Iowa State University Extension to Families website, [www.extension.iastate.edu/families](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/families).