



Family GUIDE



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Raising Money-Wise Kids

Children begin learning lessons about money very early in life. The habits they learn, as early as preschool, will impact the choices they make throughout life.

Parents play a vital role in preparing their children to make money-wise choices and to develop positive habits that will lead to a future of financial freedom.

WHAT SHOULD CHILDREN KNOW AND WHEN?



AGES 3 - 5

Preschoolers are just learning numbers. They learn about money and spending through play and through watching adults making financial transactions.



AGES 6 - 8

This is a good age to start giving your child an allowance. They will begin to understand the value of money and can practice making wise spending choices. Having a piggy bank or spending jar will allow children to start saving for a desired expenditure.



AGES 9 - 11

Children are learning how to plan ahead and work toward long-term goals. Providing opportunities for your children to earn extra cash by performing additional chores at home or for neighbors, gives kids more independence as they learn to be responsible to their "jobs" and their finances.

RAISING MONEY-WISE KIDS IS A FUN RESOURCE FOR YOUR FAMILY

Raising Money-Wise Kids is a four-part music video series that teaches kids important financial literacy skills. Each video covers a different financial literacy topic. Watch each video as a family and follow up with this Family Guide.



VIDEO 1: *Saving, Spending, Sharing, Budget*

Before spending your income, make smart choices by splitting your money into a “Saving”, “Spending” and “Sharing” budget. Join Jay as he learns what each category represents and how to plan for both long-term and short-term expenses.

VIDEO 2: *I Want it Now!*

Once you’ve identified a goal, how do you save for it? Join Ariana as she learns to make smart choices, resist temptations, and make a plan to reach her goal.

VIDEO 3: *Time, Talent, Treasure: Living Generously*

What does it mean to live generously? Follow the adventures of Jay, Maricruz and Ariana as they find needs in their community, identify their passions and interests, and learn to use their time, talent, and treasure to help others.

VIDEO 4: *Welcome to the Credit Union*

Join Owen as he learns the advantages of putting his money into a savings account versus keeping it at home. Owen learns about the important jobs at the credit union and the steps to open an account of his own.

WATCH VIDEO 1: Saving, Spending, Sharing, Budget

Before spending your income, make smart choices by splitting your money into a “saving,” “spending,” and “sharing” budget. Join Jay as he learns what each category represents and how to plan for both long-term and short-term expenses.

CHAT

Deepen understanding with these conversation starters

1. What was Jay’s Problem?
2. How did Jay solve his problem? Who helped him?
3. What is “saving” money used for?
4. What is “spending” money used for?
5. What is “sharing” money used for?
6. What is a budget?
7. Why shouldn’t you put all of your money into one category?



TAKE MONEY-WISE ACTION

SAVING, SPENDING, SHARING JARS!

Start teaching your children the concept of budgeting by giving them three jars or piggy banks marked Saving, Spending, and Sharing. Each week when they receive their allowance, or when they earn income or receive cash gifts, have them divide their cash into the three jars.

Download these [What will you SAVE, SPEND, SHARE?](#) activity sheets to start setting goals for how children want to use, or budget, their money.

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For additional *Raising Money-Wise Kids* information, download [Saving, Spending, Sharing Budget](#) lessons and activities.



WATCH VIDEO 2: *I Want it Now!*

Once you've identified a goal, how do you save for it? Join Ariana as she learns to make smart choices, resist temptations, and make a plan to reach her goal.

CHAT

Deepen understanding with these conversation starters

1. What was Ariana's problem?
2. What choices did Ariana make that caused her problem?
3. What was Ariana's goal?
4. What choices did Ariana make to solve her problem?
5. Why is it important to have a plan before spending money?



TAKE MONEY-WISE ACTION

KEEP A MONEY JOURNAL

How we spend our money leads to lots of adventures! Saving your receipts helps you track your spending AND it's a record of where you've been and what you've done.

1. Tape your receipts onto pages of a notebook.
2. Write yourself a note about what/why you purchased the item. Include details such as who you were with or what other things you did that day for a fun adventure journal!

EXAMPLE: Today Grandma took me to the mall and I bought a pair of glow-in-the-dark glasses with my Spending money for me, and a matching pair with my Sharing money for Emily. I can't wait until our next sleepover so we can try them out! On the way home, we got a flat tire, and I got to help Grandma change it!

3. Read through your journal each month to see where your money takes you.

ENRICHMENT

For additional *Raising Money-Wise Kids* information, download [I Want it Now!](#) lessons and activities.



WATCH VIDEO 3: *Time, Talent, Treasure: Living Generously*

What does it mean to live generously? Follow the adventures of Jay, Maricruz and Ariana as they find needs in their community, identify their passions and interests, and learn to use their time, talent, and treasure to help others.

CHAT

Deepen understanding with these conversation starters

1. What does it mean to live generously?
2. How can you use your time to live generously?
3. How can you use your talents to live generously?
4. How can you use your treasure to live generously?
5. What are the needs or causes that you care about?
6. How do you feel when you help others?



TAKE MONEY-WISE ACTION

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Your children can make a difference in the community and feel great about it. Volunteerism develops positive character traits and prepares kids to become responsible and caring adults. Support your kids' discovery of their passions and ways they can use their time and talents to help others.

Download the [Living Generously Activity Page](#). Brainstorm with children about needs in the community and ways they can help. Have them circle the "Need" that most closely matches their passion or interest. Ask how they can use their time, talent, or treasure to help meet that need.

Now take action! As a family, volunteer to help meet the NEED identified in your list, or participate in a community event. Volunteering at a local food bank or serving food at a soup kitchen are good family activities that also build compassion for others and a sense of gratitude for what we have.

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For additional *Raising Money-Wise Kids* information, download [Time, Talent, Treasure: Living Generously](#) lessons and activities.



WATCH VIDEO 4: *Welcome to the Credit Union*

Join Owen as he learns the advantages of putting his money into a savings account. Owen learns about the important jobs at the credit union and the steps to open an account of his own.

CHAT

Deepen understanding with these conversation starters

1. What was Owen's problem?
2. Who helped Owen with his problem?
3. How does a Loan Officer help people?
4. How does a Service Representative help people?
5. Where does a credit union keep your money?
6. How do you access your money when it is deposited at a credit union?
7. What is the advantage of putting your money into a savings account at a credit union?



TAKE MONEY-WISE ACTION

OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Create a sense of excitement about opening your child's very own savings account! Set a specific date for the family trip to your credit union and mark it on the calendar as a special day. Use your account deposit slip and direct your child how to fill it out as practice.

Make the Account Opening Day a big deal, as this is another step your child is taking toward adulthood. When you arrive at the credit union, take time to show your child around the lobby and to explain what is happening. Refer back to the "Welcome to the Credit Union" video, and allow your child to ask the account representative questions.

Allow your child to make the deposit transaction, including filling out the deposit slip. Now your new savings account holder is ready to celebrate, perhaps with a trip for ice cream.

ENRICHMENT

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The **RAISING MONEY-WISE KIDS** videos and activity guides were created and produced by **MicheLee Puppets, Inc.** through a grant from **FAIRWINDS Foundation**.



About MicheLee Puppets

MicheLee Puppets empowers lives through the art of puppetry. Since 1985 they have developed more than 75 live theatre and video productions on critical topics like divorce, child abuse, bully prevention, healthy lifestyles, literacy and more. Their performances, videos, and puppetry classes have reached more than 2.3 million PreK-12th grade students promoting respect, responsibility, and positive choices.

MicheLee Puppets has been recognized nationally by Puppeteers of America for excellence in the field of educational puppetry and has received numerous awards for using puppetry arts to address the needs of children and families. Their short films have been screened in cities across the country as part of Heather Henson's Handmade Puppet Dreams film series. In 2020, they received nine awards from the Southern Shorts Film Festival for their pedestrian safety video, *Croakita*.

Learn more about MicheLee Puppets at www.micheleepuppets.org

For more videos by MicheLee Puppets, [CLICK HERE](#)



About FAIRWINDS Foundation

The **FAIRWINDS** Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to helping individuals achieve a path toward financial responsibility, security and freedom and inspiring them to transform the lives of others by living generously.

Through education, financial contribution and volunteerism, the Foundation works with and supports organizations that align with its passion of improving lives through financial literacy.

For more information, visit www.fairwinds.org/foundation