



Lesson One

Making Spending Decisions

making spending decisions websites



websites for making spending decisions

The internet is probably the most extensive and dynamic source of information in our society. The following web sites can provide students and others with current information, assistance, and data related to this lesson. Web addresses ending in “.com” are commercial; “.org” are nonprofit; and “.gov” are government.

Kids Bank

kidsbank.com

SaveLabSM

plan.ml.com/family/kids/

making spending decisions

overview

From birth, a child has choices. At first parents make the decisions, but before the end of the first year, children are capable of making some simple selections. If children are allowed to make easy choices as toddlers, then making decisions for themselves as they grow becomes less difficult.

This lesson introduces guided, money-related, decision-making activities for children in preschool and kindergarten.

Guiding young children in simple choices now will give them the experience and confidence to make their own decisions as they grow. Making decisions teaches children responsibility and enhances their ability to function successfully in their teen and adult years. Confidence in decision-making enhances children's control over their lives and gives them power.

Very young children are able to analyze and choose between two equally positive alternatives without major negative consequences. As children grow older, they become able to select the best from among a greater number of alternatives.

goals

Introduce structured spending decisions to assist young children in making choices. Help children recognize that money comes in limited amounts.

lesson objectives

- Gain self-confidence in making decisions.
- Analyze simple alternatives.
- Develop rational behavior patterns.
- Practice making decisions in structured situations.

student activities

1-1 Grocery Shopping

Related Worksheet: Identifying Coins

- Using playtime or math time, have children spend play money for play food items.
- Talk about buying only one or two items for themselves when they go grocery shopping.

1-2 Toy Shopping

Related Worksheet: Identifying Bills

- Help children learn that money is exchanged for toys they want.

1-3 Snack Time Decisions

Related Worksheet: Identifying Coins

- Provide a time to role-play exchanging money for snack food.

making spending decisions lesson outline

1-4 Lesson One Quiz

- Coloring Activity
- Young Reader - Answer Key

making spending decisions target audiences

role-play grocery shopping

Set up a pretend grocery store in the classroom.

- Provide empty food containers for shopping choices. If necessary, students can contribute to the empty boxes and cans. [Note: Soft-sided containers, such as bread wrappers, can be stuffed with crumpled tissue paper to hold their shape.]
- Pictures of various nutritious snack foods cut from magazines can be glued on the front of boxes to represent food choices for fresh fruits and vegetables or foods for which you cannot find empty containers.
- Mark prices on each pretend item. Price the food in 10 cent increments (for example: 20¢, 30¢, 40¢). For older children (ages five to seven), the prices could be in five-cent increments. Brightly colored tickers are great for placing the prices on items.
- Give each child in the class play money coins equal to \$1.00.
- Set the ground rules. Tell them they may purchase only one or two items with their money.
- Let children pay for their pretend grocery store purchases with their play money.
- Help one child be the cashier who takes the money. Children can take turns being the cashier.
- Let children carry their purchases away from the store using small paper bags.

discussion



student activity



toy shopping

Provide a pretend toy shopping experience for the children.

- Label prices on brightly colored stickers and place them on the toys that are part of the children's playtime.
- Let the children use play money to purchase toys for playtime.
- Make the prices proportional to the real price of the toys, but keep the prices all under \$1.00. (For example, put higher prices on the more expensive toys and lower prices on the less expensive toys.) For older children, the total price could go up to \$2.00 to \$5.00 each.

discussion



student activity



making spending decisions teaching notes

toy shopping (continued)

- Tell the children that for that day they are the caretakers for the toys they purchased.
- The children can share their purchases with the other children.
- At the end of playtime, the purchasers return the toys to the storage area.

snack time purchase decisions

Use snack time in the classroom as a shopping decision activity.

- Have two food choices for snack time (for example, two types of pudding or two types of fruit)
- Give each child 50 cents in play money. Tell the children that they are shopping for their food snacks today.
- Have each child select one snack and pay for it with his or her play money.
- Collect the price of the snack from each child.

For variety, different snacks could be different prices. For example, vanilla pudding could be less than chocolate, or apples less than oranges.

discussion



student activity



lesson one quiz

coloring activity



young reader 1 key





lesson 1 quiz: what costs money

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Do you need money to buy snacks at the grocery store?

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. Do you need money to buy toys?

☒ Yes

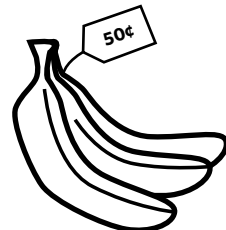
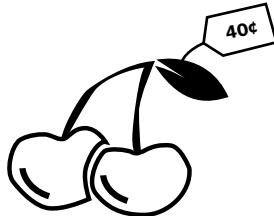
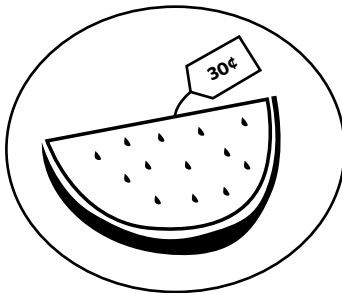
☐ No

3. Do you need money to buy things at the store?

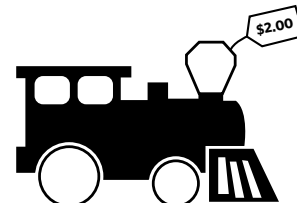
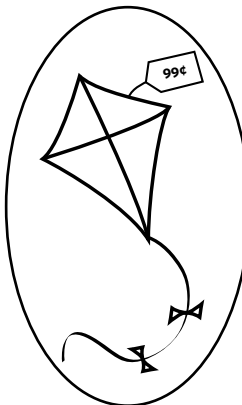
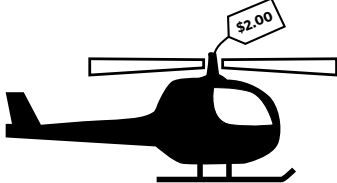
☒ Yes

☐ No

4. I have three . I can buy:



5. I have \$1.00. I can buy:



Student Activities



Lesson One

Making Spending Decisions

name: _____

date: _____



identifying coins



directions

Color and then cut out your own play money.

1¢

1¢

1¢

1¢

1¢

5¢

5¢

5¢

10¢

10¢

10¢

10¢

25¢

25¢

25¢

name: _____

date: _____

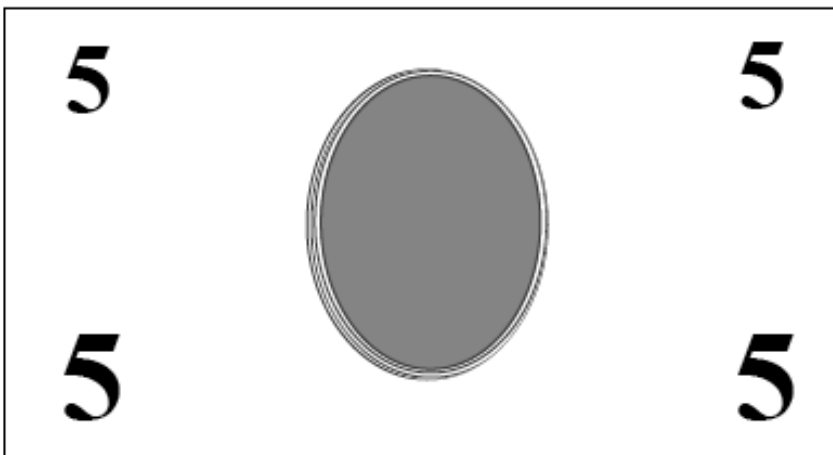
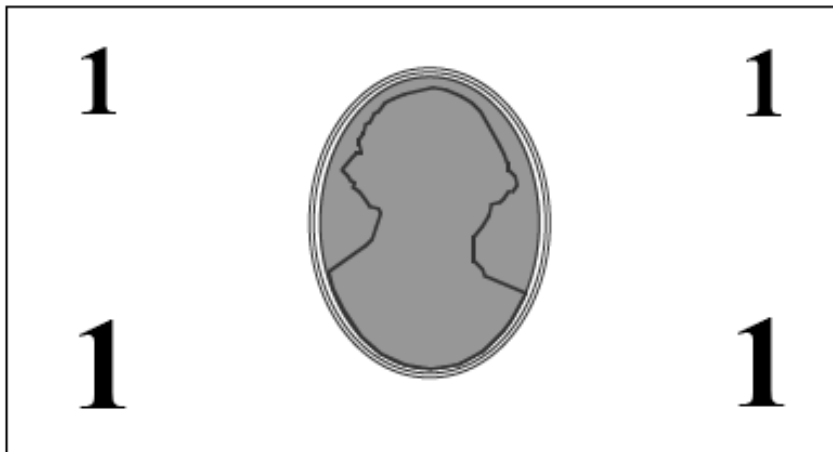
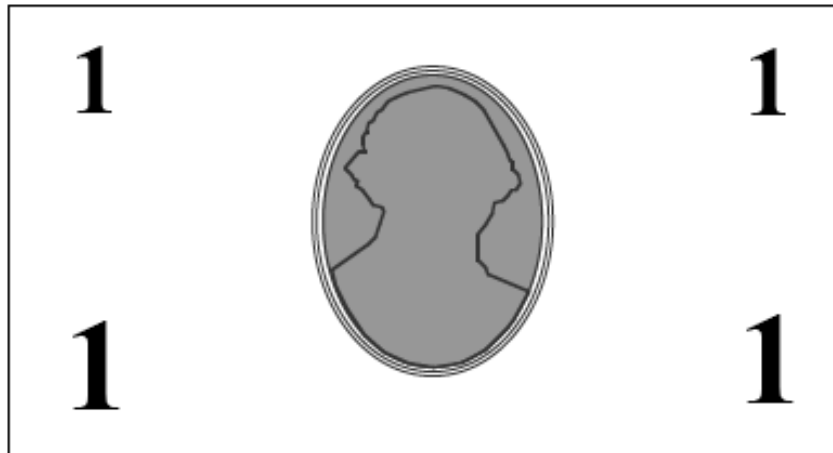


identifying bills



directions

Color and then cut out your own play money.



name: _____

date: _____

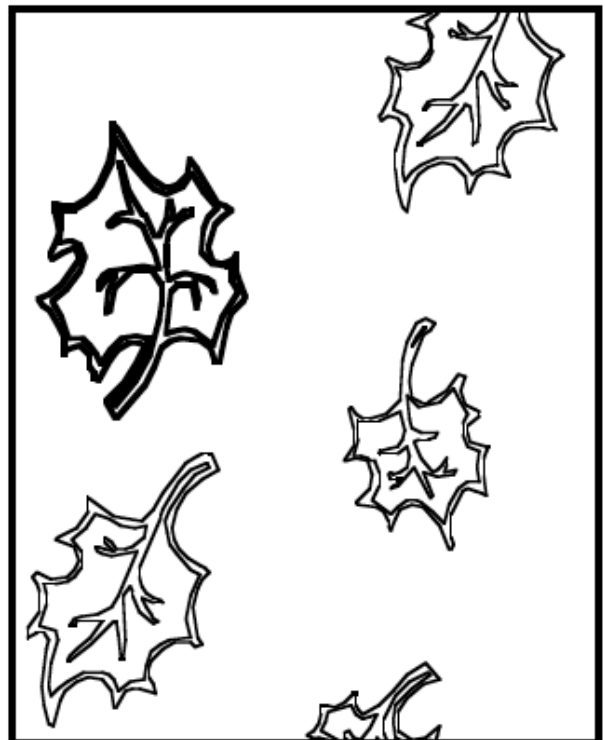
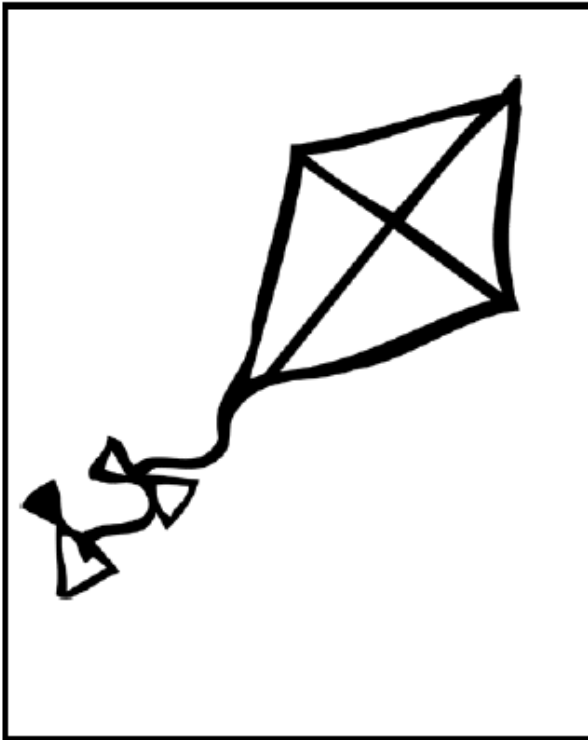


lesson 1 quiz: what costs money



directions

Color in the picture of the toy that costs money.





lesson 1 quiz: what costs money

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Do you need money to buy snacks at the grocery store?

Yes

No

2. Do you need money to buy toys?

Yes

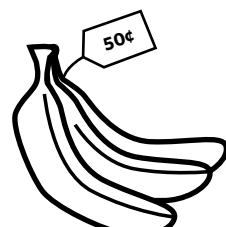
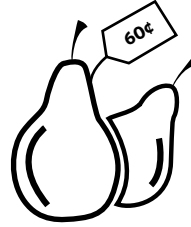
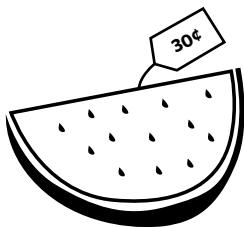
No

3. Do you need money to buy things at the store?

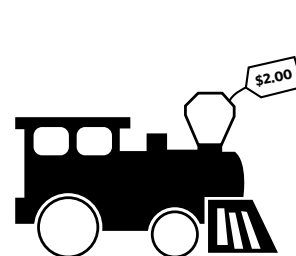
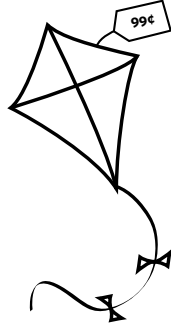
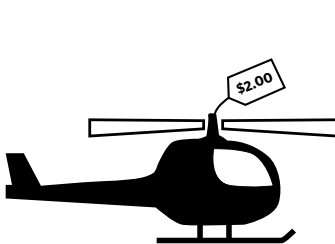
Yes

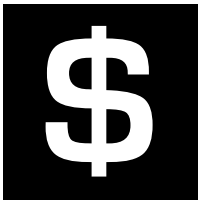
No

4. I have three    . I can buy:



5. I have \$1.00. I can buy:





Lesson Two

Spending Plans



websites for spending plans

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Liberty Financial's Young Investor Website

younginvestor.com

spending plans lesson outline

overview

Preschool-aged children are capable of learning simple spending plans. Early training in categorizing money establishes patterns for future money-management behavior.

This lesson introduces children to the concept of dividing their money into categories, namely "save," "spend," and "share." We present activities that will help children understand that money is limited in quantity and must be divided for different purposes.

As children grow older, more categories can be added to their spending plans. Children learn to manage their own limited supplies of money.

Making saving a category in spending plans can encourage this important habit as children reach their late teens. As adults, saving will seem natural for them and they will be inclined to save on their own.

goals

Introduce structured spending decisions to assist young children in making choices. Help children recognize that money comes in limited amounts.

lesson objectives

- Identify categories for spending plans.
- Recognize the importance of saving some money for future needs.

student activities

2-1 Spending Plan Containers

Related Materials: Letter to Parents

- Provide a place for children to keep money for saving and spending.

2-2 Spending Plan Envelopes

Related Worksheet: Spending Plans Envelope

- Have students prepare take-home envelopes for their spending plan categories.

2-3 Financial Goal Posters

- Have children identify and display their financial goals.
- Discuss the need for money to pay for these goals.

2-4 Reading About Money

- Select books about money for story time.

2-5 Spending Plan Game

Related Worksheets: Game Squares

- Play a game that teaches children to divide money into "spend" and "save" categories.

spending plans lesson outline

2-6 Class Field Trip

- Have children learn to share with a local charity.
- Introduce children to the "give" category of their spending plans.

2-7 Lesson Two Quiz

- Coloring Activity
- Young Reader - Answer Key

spending plans teaching notes

spending plan containers

- Give each child two containers to decorate. The containers can be two small plastic jars, recycled coffee cans with plastic lids, or small cardboard boxes, but try to make the containers the same for everyone in the class.
- Have old magazines, stickers, construction paper, crayons, and magic markers available. Allow the children to be creative in decorating their two containers.
- After the children have decorated the containers, they should label one container as "SAVE" and the other as "SPEND."
- Make sure each container is labeled with the child's name.
- Send the completed containers home with the children.
- Optional: Include a note to parents to let them know that you have been discussing spending and saving in the classroom.
- Teachers can decide if they want to make a second set of "spend" and "save" containers for the children to keep in the classroom.

related materials

spending plan envelopes

- This activity is ideal for older children in the PreK to second grade age group.
- Give each child two or three envelope templates.
- Let the children color or decorate their envelopes with pictures and stickers or crayons. Pictures on an envelope can relate to what the envelope represents. For example, children may want pictures of toys on their "save" envelopes to show what they are saving for.
- Instruct the children to cut out their envelopes.
- Show the students how to fold the sides of their envelopes and fasten two of the sides together, leaving the flap open.

student activity 2-1



spending plans teaching notes

- Label the envelopes with SAVE, SPEND and GIFTS.

[Note: If you do this activity with children under five, just use save and spend. For students in first and second grades, you could use more categories for the envelopes, such as "gifts."]

financial goal posters

- Ask each student to think of one thing he or she wants to buy. Help the students to focus on only one item.
- Discuss with the students that each thing costs money. Explain that dollars and cents have to be exchanged for the items, and this is why we save money.
- Have each child make a poster to depict his or her financial goal.
- The poster can be made on 8 1/2 x 11-inch or larger paper.
- Let children cut pictures that represent the items they want from magazines or old catalogs .
[Alternative: Let children draw freehand pictures of what they want.]
- Mount the pictures on colored construction paper.
- Write the title "I am saving for:" at the top of each page.
- At the bottom of each poster, write: "Money needed to purchase this \$_____."

discussion



spending plans teaching notes

story time

- Use story time to read books about saving and spending money. Borrow books from the local public library if you do not have any available at the school.
- Here are some suggestions:
 - *The Great Tooth Fairy Rip-off*, by Dori Hillestad, Minneapolis: Fairview Press. Joey tries to negotiate with the Tooth Fairy for the amount he thinks his tooth is really worth, but he gets a surprise and learns the values of work, money, and saving when the Tooth Fairy starts bargaining back.
 - *Benny's Pennies*, by Pat Brisson, New York Doubleday, 1992. Benny sets off in the morning with five shiny new pennies to spend and eventually buys something for his mother, brother, sister, dog, and cat.
 - *The Lunch Line*, by Karen Berman, New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1996. In the school cafeteria at lunchtime, Kim eyes all the tasty food and tries to figure out what she can buy with her dollar.
 - *Pigs Will Be Pigs: Fun with Math and Money*, by Sharon McGinley-Nally, New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1994. The hungry Pig family learns about money and buying power as they turn the house upside-down looking for enough money to buy dinner at the local restaurant.
 - *Susie Goes Shopping*, by Rose Greydanus, Mahwah, NJ: Troll, 1980. A young pig wants to buy a cake, a pie, and cookies to make her mother feel better, but she has only enough money for a loaf of bread.

reading

spending plans teaching notes

spending plan game

This floor game can be played by small groups of children at the same time. It teaches them to divide money received into two categories -- "save" and "spend."

- Make 8 12 x 11-inch posters that show spending and saving scenarios to place on the floor of the classroom. Arrange them in a maze.
- Use a pair of dice or a spinner from another game to determine how many spaces each child moves on the floor game.
- Provide each player with two envelopes: one marked "save" and one marked "spend."
- Appoint a game supervisor to give or collect the money associated with each landing spot.
- The student with the most money at the end of the path wins.

reading

field trip to a charity

This activity helps children understand how to give to other people. It should be viewed as a group activity.

- Discussion of sharing (or giving) part of money received can be accompanied with a field trip to a local charity, such as a Ronald McDonald House, a homeless shelter, or humane society.
- Decide on a local charity that the class can adopt for this activity.
- Help the students learn more about this charity.
- As a class decide on a project to help meet a need for this charity.
- The students can work together on the project.
- Raise money to share with the charity.
- Have students make a contribution for the project.
- If collecting money isn't possible, select an activity that doesn't cost money (for example donate time and/or personal energy at the charity).
- Arrange for the students to visit the actual location of the charity.

related materials

lesson two quiz

coloring activity



young reader 1 key





lesson two quiz: spending and saving

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Saving money is a good idea.

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. If you save your money now, you will have more money to spend later.

☒ Yes

☐ No

3. Part of your saved money can be used to buy things now.

☒ Yes

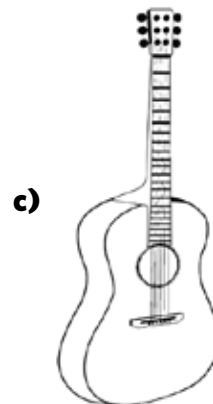
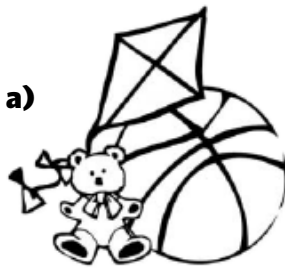
☐ No

4. If you do not have enough money to buy something, you can:

☐ - buy something that costs more.

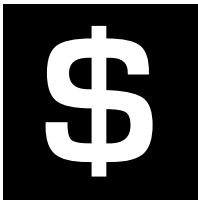
☒ - save more money and then buy it.

5. When I save money, I can buy:



☒ **d)** all of these

Student Activities



Lesson Two

Spending Plans



spending plans



directions

Create your own envelopes to show what you will do with your money. Print out one page for each envelope you need, then cut along the solid lines. Label each envelope by writing “saving,” “spending,” or “gifts”. You can decorate your envelopes using crayons, stickers, or pictures from magazines. When you are done decorating your envelopes, put them together by folding the dotted lines, then gluing both of the sides.

This money is for _____

name: _____

date: _____

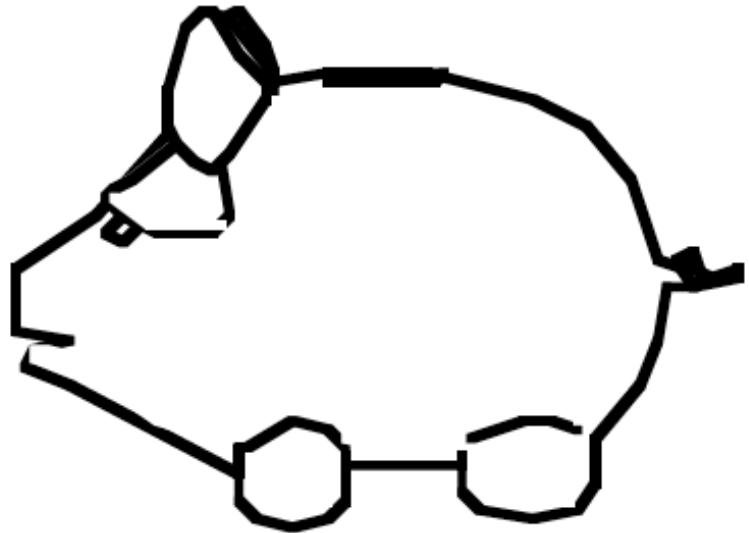
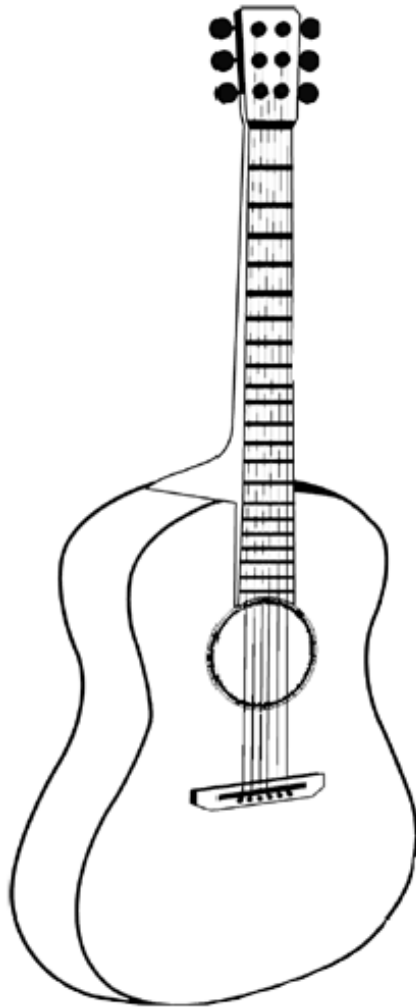


lesson 2 quiz: where do you save money?



directions

Color the object that you can use to save money.





lesson two quiz: spending and saving

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Saving money is a good idea.

Yes

No

2. If you save your money now, you will have more money to spend later.

Yes

No

3. Part of your saved money can be used to buy things now.

Yes

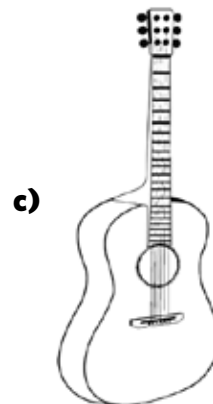
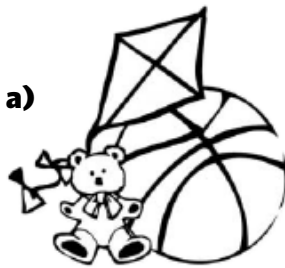
No

4. If you do not have enough money to buy something, you can:

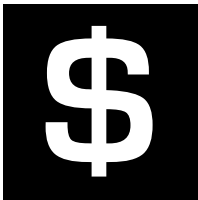
- buy something that costs more.

- save more money and then buy it.

5. When I save money, I can buy:



d) all of these



Lesson Three

Earning Money



websites for earning money

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Bonus.com® - the SuperSite for Kids!

bonus.com

Kids Making Money Survey

kidsmoney.org/makemone.htm

earning money lesson outline

overview

Adults must earn money to provide for their needs and wants. In this lesson children learn that money is earned and does not come free. Children also learn that money is limited in quantity. Early training in earning small amounts of money provides a foundation and understanding that work and money are connected.

Young children perform certain tasks at home just because they are part of the family or household. Children can do additional tasks to earn money for their spending plans. Children need to distinguish between shared responsibilities as members of a family and responsibilities that earn them money.

This lesson introduces young children to activities and ideas for earning money. The money earned helps children meet their financial goals. Remember that the financial goals for a preschool-aged child may seem simple to an adult, but they are not simple to the child. Children learn the concept that money is a reward for working.

goals

Develop an understanding about working to acquire resources to meet needs and wants.

lesson objectives

- Recognize that money is earned from work done.
- Understand that money is limited in quantity.

student activities

3-1 Classroom Task Chart

- Create and use a classroom task chart to help students learn to share in responsibilities for things that need to be done.
- Reward students with play money for their work efforts.

3-2 "Jobs I Do" Chart

Related Worksheet: Chores Chart
Related Materials: Letter to Parents

- Help students recognize their work efforts at home.
- Discuss with children the concept of money as an exchange for work.
- Teach younger children to exchange stars for work.

3-3 Card Match Game

Related Worksheet: Earning Money

- Encourage children to recognize tasks they do to earn money.
- Discuss the exchange of work efforts for rewards.

earning money lesson outline

3-4 Lesson Three Quiz

- Coloring Activity
- Young Reader - Answer Key

earning money teaching notes

class job list

This activity reinforces the concept that money is earned through extra work.

- Make a chart of activities that students can perform to help in the classroom. Place the tasks in columns across the top of the chart. Write each student's name on a row down the length of the chart.
- Assign a monetary value to each job.
- Give the students turns doing the tasks.
- Give recognition for tasks completed by placing stars on the chart next to their names.
- At the end of each week pay them with classroom play money.
- Provide each child with a container for his classroom play money.
- Provide opportunities for the children to spend their classroom play money (pay for toys at play time, extra time at the computer lab, etc.).
- Make a poster of the costs for these opportunities so children know how much each will cost.
- Earned classroom play money can also be combined with math activities for counting, simple addition, and subtraction.

discussion



create a job chart

Provide children with a tool to use for jobs done at home. This activity can accompany a discussion of tasks that children can do at home to earn money.

- Make a list of jobs that the children can do at home to earn their allowance.
- Give each child a piece of paper with a blank table on it.
- Leave a margin that the students can decorate.
- Have the students fill in the jobs they do at home.
- Send the Job Chart home with the students to use at home.

student activity 3-1



related materials

earning money teaching notes

- If possible, send a page of star stickers home for them to use on their charts.
- Send a letter home describing to parents that they may choose to give real or pretend money to their children, and encourage them to use their children's "save" and "spend" containers.

matching chore cards

This activity helps children identify family tasks that they can do at home to earn money for their saving and spending categories.

- Use cardstock-quality paper and place images of jobs done at home on them.
- Make two cards of each image.
- The images can be placed on 3 x 5-inch index cards.
- Make at least 12 sets of cards.
- Use jobs suggested by the children.
- Lay the cards face down on a table.
- Ask the children to find the matching cards.
- Two or more children can play this game at the same time.

discussion



student activity 3-2



lesson three quiz

coloring activity



young reader 1 key





lesson 3 quiz: earning money

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Some work you do at home is part of being the family.

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. Sometimes moms and dads pay kids an allowance for doing chores.

☒ Yes

☐ No

3. Some jobs pay more money than others.

☒ Yes

☐ No

4. These are things you do because you are part of the family.

a. putting your toys away

b. making your bed

c. brushing your teeth

☒ d. all of these

5. These are the things you can do to earn extra money.

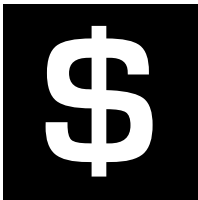
a. recycling

b. delivering newspapers

c. mowing the neighbor's lawn

☒ d. all of these

Student Activities



Lesson Three

Earning Money

name: _____

date: _____



chores chart



directions

Keep track of daily chores using this chore chart. Add any additional chores you have in the chores list, and mark off your chores under each day you finish them.

Chores	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
make bed							
feed dog							
wash dinner dishes							

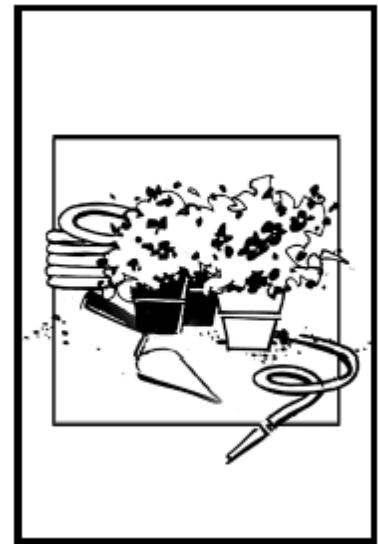
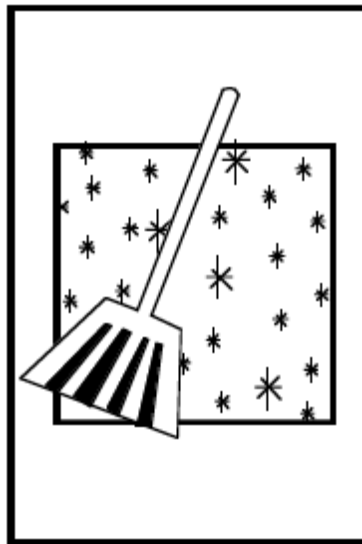
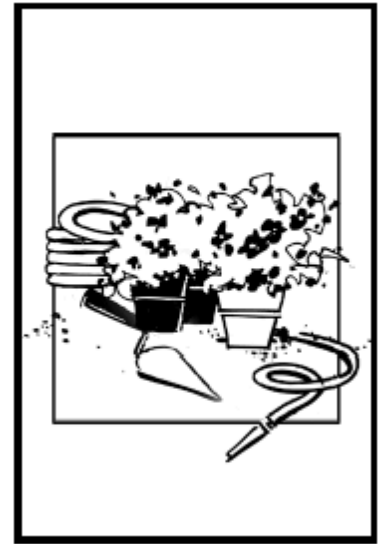


earning money



directions

Print out two copies of cards. Color the pictures, then cut each card out along the lines. Mix all the cards and place them face down on a table. The object of the game is to get two cards that match. Take turns turning two cards face up. If they match you can remove the set and take another turn. If they do not match, turn both cards over, and it is the next player's turn. The player with the most matches wins.



9

lesson 3 quiz: earning money

**directions**

Color the job you can do to earn money.





lesson 3 quiz: earning money

circle the correct answer for each question.

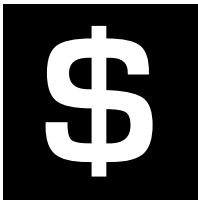
1. Some work you do at home is part of being the family.
Yes
No

2. Sometimes moms and dads pay kids an allowance for doing chores.
Yes
No

3. Some jobs pay more money than others.
Yes
No

4. These are things you do because you are part of the family.
 - a. putting your toys away
 - b. making your bed
 - c. brushing your teeth
 - d. all of these

5. These are the things you can do to earn extra money.
 - a. recycling
 - b. delivering newspapers
 - c. mowing the neighbor's lawn
 - d. all of these



Lesson Four

What is Money?



websites for what is money?

The internet is probably the most extensive and dynamic source of information in our society. The following web sites can provide students and others with current information, assistance, and data related to this lesson. Web addresses ending in “.com” are commercial; “.org” are nonprofit; and “.gov” are government.

Change Maker

funbrain.com/cashreg/

U.S. Mint h.i.p. pocket change™

usmint.gov/kids/

what is money? lesson outline

overview

Money is the medium of exchange for most goods and services. Different coins and paper money have different values.

Children need the ability to recognize the names and values of different coins and bills used in exchange for goods and services. This lesson helps children identify the names of coins and grasp their relative values in terms of purchasing power. We present games and activities that will help children acquire this knowledge.

goals

Provide an understanding and awareness of the numerical value of coins and paper currency.

lesson objectives

- Understand the exchange value of coins.
- Learn the names of coins.

student activities

4-1 Coin Flash Cards

Related Worksheets: Coin Flash Cards

- Children learn to identify the names of each coin with flash cards.

4-2 Penny and Nickel Purchases

- Help children learn the value of coins with a purchase situation.
- Discuss that five pennies buys the same amount as one nickel.

4-3 Treasure Hunt

- Have children find and identify coins.

4-4 Reading About Money

- Use story and reading time to learn coin identification.
- Talk with children about the value of different coins.

4-5 Counting

- Use real coins to give children experience in sorting and counting different coins.

4-6 Lesson Four Quiz

- Coloring Activity
- Young Reader - Answer Key

what is money teaching notes

coin identification flash cards

Children can learn coin recognition with this activity. It encourages visual recognition of the coins.

- Place visual images of a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, and gold dollar on 3 x 5-inch index cards
- Use heavy card stock, if possible.
- Include pictures of both sides of the coins.
- Hold the flash cards up and see which child can name each coin first. (This activity can also be done with one child at a time to help learn the names of the coins.)

student activity



coin values

Young children need help understanding the actual value of each coin.

- Begin with pennies and nickels.
- Have a supply of animal crackers, short pretzel sticks, or similar small items.
- Give each child five pennies and one nickel. Use play money, if you prefer.
- Tell the students that each animal cracker costs one cent.
- Sell them five animal crackers in exchange for five pennies.
- Next, give them another five crackers for the nickel.
- Discuss with the students that five pennies buys the same amount as one nickel.
- Repeat this game again, and play it often.
- Expand it to include a dime and quarter as children grasp the concept of a nickel.

discussion



what is money? teaching notes

naming coins

This activity helps children learn to identify the names of coins.

- Place real coins in a large plastic container partially filled with rice or sand.
- Mix the coins and rice (or sand) to hide the coins.
- Ask the children to find the coins.
- Ask the children to tell you the names of the coins they find.

discussion



reading time

These books relate to coin identification. Use them during story time or for young children to read themselves.

- *Jelly Beans for Sale*, by Bruce McMillan, New York: Scholastic, 1996. Shows how different combinations of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters can buy varying amounts of jelly beans. Includes information on how jelly beans are made.
- *Deena's Lucky Penny*, by Barbara Derubertis, Kane Press, 1999. While pondering how to buy her mother a birthday present with no money, Deena finds a penny and follows a process of discovery about how pennies add up to nickels, which add up to dimes, all the way up to four quarters making a dollar.
- *Monster Money*, by Grace Maccarone, New York: Scholastic, 1998. Ten monsters have ten cents each to buy a pet in this rhyming story that demonstrates how to count money.
- *One Dollar: My First Money Book*, by Lynette Long, Barron's Educational Series, 1998. Begins by describing the images found on the dollar bill, our basic unit of currency; then describes the various coins and explains their values relative to the dollar.

reading

what is money? teaching notes

lesson four quiz

coloring activity



young reader 1 key





lesson 4 quiz: what is money

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Which coin is a penny?



2. One nickle is equal to this many pennies.

a. ten

b. four

c. one

d. five

3. One dime is equal to this many nickles.

a. one

b. two

c. three

d. four

4. Two quarters have the same value as five dimes.

Yes

No

5. Four quarters equal one dollar.

Yes

No

Student Activities



Lesson Four

What Is Money?

name: _____

date: _____



coin flashcards



directions

Color these coins. Then cut out each box. You can use these as flashcards.





lesson 4 quiz: finding pennies

**directions**

Color all of the pennies  below. Can you find them all?





lesson 4 quiz: what is money

circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Which coin is a penny?



2. One nickel is equal to this many pennies.

- a. ten
- b. four
- c. one
- d. five

3. One dime is equal to this many nickels.

- a. one
- b. two
- c. three
- d. four

4. Two quarters have the same value as five dimes.

- Yes
- No

5. Four quarters equal one dollar.

- Yes
- No