



Lesson 5: Super Savers

Topic: Saving and Spending

About This Topic:

Build your child's understanding of how money is used by exploring saving and spending. Having these early conversations develops children's critical thinking skills around choosing what to do with money.

From the classroom:

What is spending? Spending is when we use money to purchase goods or services.

What is saving? Saving is when we keep money to use at a later date.

Why should I save? Saving money gives us the option to get things we want at a later date. It also ensures we will have the money we may need in case of an emergency or a special event.

How can I save my money? Money can be saved in a piggy bank or bank.

Why should I plan my spending? Thinking about our spending lets us plan for the future. We can also compare prices and consider our needs and wants when we plan ahead.

How can I plan my spending? We can plan our spending by using lists (like a grocery list) and recording how we use our money.

Words To Know:

Save: Setting something, like money, aside to use in the future.

Spend: The act of using money to buy goods or services.

Resources:

Books:

- *The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money* by Stan & Jan Berenstain: Saving up for video games takes hard work. Brother and Sister Bear join forces to find ways to make and save money.
- *Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban: Frances gets tricked into buying a friend's tea set. Will Frances friend learn the value of friendship over a bargain?
- *If You Made a Million* by David M. Schwartz: Have you ever wanted a million dollars? Discover ways to make and spend a lot of money with Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician and his friends.

Games and Online Resources:

- **Sesame Street Finances for Kids:** Short videos and games bring to life the notions of saving, spending, and decision-making.
www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/save
- **PBS Kids CyberChase Money Videos:** Short, animated videos help kids practice math skills while exploring saving and spending.
<http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/find-it/money/videos/>

Conversation Starters ... Ask Your Child:

- What are some things you would like to save for?
- Have you ever spent money and then wanted to buy something different afterwards?
- What are some ways you could save money?
- Why is it important to save money?

Try This ...

at Home:

Savings Tip Handout: Read and discuss the *Savings Tip* handout with your child. Let him or her color the page while you discuss the importance of saving.

Make a Piggy Bank: Create and decorate a piggy bank out of materials from around the house, such as a shoebox or jar. Cut a hole in the top of the box or jar big enough for coins and dollar bills. Then let your child decorate it.

Delayed-Gratification Game: It takes time to save for something you want. Practicing to take turns while playing board games or other activities helps children learn to wait.

Around Town:

Counting Banks: See how many Banks you and your child can spot as you drive/walk around town. Ask your child what kinds of things can be done at banks.

at the bank:

Saving Up: Bring your child along when going to the Bank and encourage him or her to bring any change he or she has saved. Help him or her fill out a savings deposit slip. This can be a great way for children to get used to regularly adding to their savings account.