



### 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/ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **Sesame Street Saving and Spending:** Short videos and games bring to life the notions of saving, spending, and decision-making.  
[http://www.sesamestreet.org/playlists#media/playlist\\_830c8f2b-7ae8-442c-9ba5-34f9df4f68b0](http://www.sesamestreet.org/playlists#media/playlist_830c8f2b-7ae8-442c-9ba5-34f9df4f68b0)
- **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?
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### 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.

### TRY THIS 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.

### TRY THIS 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.