

Starting An Allowance Checklist

Note: This checklist was designed for young children who are being introduced to money for the first time.

If your child is older or already has a good grasp of what money is and how to use it you can compress this list into days by reviewing only the concepts that apply to them

	To Do:	Key Concept	Demonstration/Script
Week 0 Prep	<input type="checkbox"/> Find 3 clear jars		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pick where jars will live		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Get coins/bills for allowance		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Get sample coins/bills for demonstrations		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect flyers from stores		
Week 1 Money	<input type="checkbox"/> Tell your child they will be getting an allowance	An allowance will give your the opportunity to practice using money	"You will be getting an allowance to practice how to use money, which is a skill you will need all through your life."
	<input type="checkbox"/> Define what money is and what it is used for	Money is used to trade for things we need and want	Coins or bills are used to buy goods and services; they are also used to pay people for their work
	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce coins and cash denominations (nickel, dime, dollar, etc.)	Different pieces of money have different values	Use coins to demonstrate how different coins make a dollar
Week 2 Value	<input type="checkbox"/> Review week one	Go over coins again, ask what money is	
	<input type="checkbox"/> How much do things cost?	We place value on different things	Show child flyers from stores with different prices listed for different items
	<input type="checkbox"/> How much do people earn?	Talk generally about how different jobs earn different amounts of money and people can only spend as much money as they earn	Talk specifically about how your family earns money

To Do:	Key Concept	Demonstration/Script
Week 3 Money Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Review part one and two	What do things cost, and what are the different coins and bill denominations
<input type="checkbox"/> How to use your spending jar	We keep some of our money to spend on the things we want. We might have to save for a little while to get enough.	Parents spend the money we earn on: food, internet, phones, housing, energy, transportation, fun activities
<input type="checkbox"/> How to use your saving jar	We save some of our money for bigger purchases - for example, if you want a big expensive toy you might have to save for a long time to buy it.	Parents save for our retirement; homes; family vacations, your education
<input type="checkbox"/> How to use your giving jar	Talk about the charities you have donated to in the past, and how charities support big challenges (i.e. poverty reduction, wildlife conservation, equity)	We put some money aside to give to a charity. Can you think of a charity you would like to give to? When we have \$20 in the jar we will give it to the charity.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do not buy list	Have child agree to a list of items that are off limits, create a contract if you think you need one	These items we are not comfortable with you buying (i.e. weapons) you cannot use your allowance to buy these items
<input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting	Allowance money will be used to buy personal items	Your allowance money will be used to buy things for yourself, or used to buy gifts you wish to give (i.e. toys, books or treats)
Week 4 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Set allowance amount and the day of the week the allowance will be delivered	To help practice saving and delay gratification children need to know how much money will be coming and when, to plan accordingly
<input type="checkbox"/> Start allowance	Be consistent and provide the same amount on the same day of each week	Put pictures of long term savings goal and charity on respective jars

Remember to: Increase allowance annually on or after birthdays
Have an ongoing dialogue about money and money related topics