



## **Middle School Education**

April is National Financial Literacy Month, which is designed to create awareness about the importance of personal financial education. Throughout the month, we will be exploring different financial education topics with specific age-minded activities and links, designed for your use at home.

This week's topic is Good Money Habits. Building good money habits can increase your bank account balances and help set you up for financial success early in life. As a middle school student, you typically receive money from an allowance, household chores or even a part-time job, so you have money to spend! As a spending consumer, you may not have a money plan, or budget, for sensible spending and saving. Good money habits will help you learn how to budget, save money, and work towards your financial goals.

For those students with an interest in personal finance, check out the YouTube videos by Andrew Schear, a personal finance enthusiast (link found below). He offers a variety of personal finance topics including what every high school student should know before graduation.

### **Articles and Video**

1. Tips for high school students

<https://www.thebalance.com/financial-tips-for-high-school-graduates-4140397>

2. Looking for some fun, money saving challenges?

<https://www.clevergirlfinance.com/blog/money-savings-challenge/>

Video-Personal Finance for High School Students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkhphICAH4o>



# Money, Money, Money!

## Good Money Habits for Middle School Students

Good money habits will get you off to a great start in your relationship with money. The better you understand how big of a role money will play in your future, the better prepared you will be! It's not so much about HOW much you make, but rather how you manage it. These tips will also help you in our weekly activities on the following pages.

1. Set Financial Goals, short-term, (such as a vacation or a new game), medium term (such as saving for a car or college) and long term (such as retirement or a down-payment for a house)
2. Learn how to make a budget (spending plan)
3. Try a simple budgeting app such as Mint or EveryDollar, or just keep a money journal.
4. Talk to your family about how they save money.
5. Know that money is not just for spending, but for saving too!
6. Create opportunities to make money (mowing lawns, babysitting).
7. Learn the value of giving. Your time or money is valuable to others.
8. Understand that money can grow, using savings accounts or other investments.
9. Look to your role models, try to model their good money habits!
10. Understand there are opportunity costs to most decisions, the trade-off between two choices.
11. Wait at least a day before buying anything over \$15, especially an impulse buy.
12. Learn to be content with what you have, try not to feel like you need to keep up with others.
13. Start saving for college, or any after high-school plans.
14. Get involved in your family's shopping and budgeting expenses, becoming cost aware.
15. When you go out to eat, ask your parents how much that meal just cost them. This also helps with money awareness.
16. Learn the responsibility of having your own bank account, be sure to review your bank statement every month.
17. Understand how a debit card works and how it is connected to your checking account.



## **Boardgames With a Financial Piece**

### **Ages 5-8**

1. The Allowance Game (ages 5-10)
2. Monopoly Jr (ages 5+)
3. Buy It Right (ages 5-12)
4. Cashflow For Kids (ages 6+)
5. Money Match Me (ages 6+)
6. Card Game: Exact Change (ages 6+)
7. Money Bags (ages 7+)
8. Moneywise Kids (ages 7+)
9. Pay Day (ages 8+)
10. Making Change Octominoes (ages 7+)
11. Managing My Allowance (ages 8+)



### **Ages 8+**

1. The Game of Life (ages 8+)
2. Monopoly -various versions (ages 9+)
3. Buy It Right (ages 5-12)
4. The Stock Exchange Game (ages 10+)
5. Millionaire Maker Board Game (ages 10+)
6. Act Your Wage! (ages 10+)
7. Thrive Time for Teens (ages 13+)
8. Cashflow 101 (ages 14+)
9. Bulls and Bears (ages 15+)



# Good Money Habits Matching

Match the word on the left, to the correct description on the right.

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Opportunity Costs            | A. Be happy with what you have   |
| 2. Contentment                  | B. Pay Yourself First (Save!)    |
| 3. A way to earn money          | C. Mowing lawns                  |
| 4. Short-term goal              | D. Buy sale items or generics    |
| 5. Impulse buy                  | E. Learning how much items cost  |
| 6. Budget                       | F. An unplanned purchase         |
| 7. Cost aware                   | G. Having your own bank account  |
| 8. Debit cards                  | H. A plan for your money         |
| 9. Medium-term goal             | I. Where money can grow          |
| 10. How can a family save?      | J. Saving for a car              |
| 11. Savings/Investment account  | K. Saving for vacation           |
| 12. Sharing/Donating            | L. Trade-off between two choices |
| 13. Positive Role models        | M. Modeling good money habits    |
| 14. Learn the responsibility of | N. Attached to checking accounts |
| 15. PYF                         | O. A way to give to others       |

## Good Money Habits

# "Good Money Tips" Word Scramble

1. IETDB CSARD \_\_\_\_\_
2. AEVS MEONY \_\_\_\_\_
3. EGT OIVVLDNE NI OGIHPSNP \_\_\_\_\_
4. LERAN AIENPCET \_\_\_\_\_
5. NLREA OT TEGDUB \_\_\_\_\_
6. ENOMY CNA OWGR \_\_\_\_\_
7. ADOIV USEILMP GNUYIB \_\_\_\_\_
8. EOBECM RAWAE OF OTSCS \_\_\_\_\_
9. IDNF NREIGNA RISPTPEOUTNOI \_\_\_\_\_
10. TRTSA SVNAIG OFR ECGEOLL \_\_\_\_\_
11. ETS YMOEN GOASL \_\_\_\_\_
12. LUVAE FO GINGVI \_\_\_\_\_
13. RELNA TTNEMENCONT \_\_\_\_\_
14. OTONPYITPUR OTCSS \_\_\_\_\_





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## Shopping Scavenger Hunt

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A good money habit to have, is to be aware of how much items cost at the store. See if you can take this scavenger hunt to the grocery store the next time your family shops and try to answer these questions.

1. An average box of cereal is \$3.27. Can you find a cereal you would eat that's less than the average?
2. Your family's favorite butter to buy is \_\_\_\_\_. Can you find a butter that costs less?
3. There are so many types of ice cream! Compare the price of a half-gallon of Ice cream to a box of ice cream bars. Which is cheaper?
4. Is it usually a better value to buy things in bulk, or smaller amounts? (You may have to ask)
5. Your family's favorite bread to buy is \_\_\_\_\_. Are there other types that cost less?
6. An average frozen cheese pizza is \$5.00. How much is a frozen pizza that your family would buy?
7. Try and guess what costs more, 2 pounds of bananas or one head of lettuce? Were you right or wrong?
8. Can you guess the total amount your family spent on groceries? Now how much did they ACTUALLY spend?

## **How Does Your Family Save Money?**

This is an activity that you can do together as a family. Have a discussion with the person that does most of the everyday shopping and bill-paying for your household.

You will be focusing on how your household saves money. It is good to learn at an early age, what good money tips you can learn from your family. There may be tips that you take with you, when you move out on your own someday!

**In what ways does your family save money in the following areas?**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Grocery Store |  |
| Cable TV      |  |
| Cell Phones   |  |
| Rent/Mortgage |  |
| Utilities     |  |
| Entertainment |  |

**What are other ways your family currently uses to reduce spending?**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |



# Good Money Habits Matching Key

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Opportunity Costs <b>L</b>            | A. Be happy with what you have   |
| 2. Contentment <b>A</b>                  | B. Pay Yourself First (Save!)    |
| 3. A way to earn money <b>C</b>          | C. Mowing lawns                  |
| 4. A short-term goal <b>K</b>            | D. Buy sale items or generics    |
| 5. Impulse buy <b>F</b>                  | E. Learning how much items cost  |
| 6. Budgeting <b>H</b>                    | F. An unplanned purchase         |
| 7. Cost aware <b>E</b>                   | G. Having your own bank account  |
| 8. Debit cards <b>N</b>                  | H. A plan for your money         |
| 9. Medium-term goal <b>J</b>             | I. Where money can grow          |
| 10. How can a family save? <b>D</b>      | J. Saving for a car              |
| 11. Savings/Investment account <b>I</b>  | K. Saving for vacation           |
| 12. Sharing <b>O</b>                     | L. Trade-off between two choices |
| 13. Positive Role models <b>M</b>        | M. Modeling good money habits    |
| 14. Learn the responsibility of <b>G</b> | N. Attached to checking accounts |
| 15. PYF <b>B</b>                         | O. A way to give to others       |

## Good Money Habits



# "Good Money Tips" Scramble KEY

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. IETDB CSARD                | <u>Debit Cards</u>                |
| 2. AEVS MEONY                 | <u>Save Money</u>                 |
| 3. EGT OIVVLDNE NI OGIHPSNP   | <u>Get Involved in Shopping</u>   |
| 4. LERAN AIENPCET             | <u>Learn Patience</u>             |
| 5. NLREA OT TEGDUB            | <u>Learn to Budget</u>            |
| 6. YNMEO ANC ORGW             | <u>Money Can Grow</u>             |
| 7. ADOIV USEILMP GNUYIB       | <u>Avoid Impulse Buying</u>       |
| 8. EOBECM RAWAE OF OTSCS      | <u>Become Aware of Costs</u>      |
| 9. IDNF NREIGNA RISPTPEOUTNOI | <u>Find Earning Opportunities</u> |
| 10. TRTSA SVNAIG OFR ECGEOLL  | <u>Start Saving for College</u>   |
| 11. SETS NEYOM ASLGO          | <u>Set Money Goals</u>            |
| 12. LUVAE FO GINGVI           | <u>Value of Giving</u>            |
| 13. RELNA TTNEMENCONT         | <u>Learn Contentment</u>          |
| 14. OTONPYITPUR OTCSS         | <u>Opportunity Costs</u>          |

