

Tips on Saving.

SAVING BUDGETING

TEACH THE CHILDREN WELL!

Why is it that we never seem to teach our children enough about money and relationships, as we should? It's the two things that most adults struggle with later on in life and are often the cause of stress and illness.

Even if you haven't achieved the sort of financial status you would be comfortable with, it's not too late to start to teach your children how to handle money. Even though some schools may offer financial literacy as a subject, most do not, so it's our responsibility as adults to show our youth how to be good with money.



Here are 6 quick easy strategies that I have used:

- **1.** Go online: Try http://www.starsaver.co.za/ a great initiative in South Africa that teaches younger children how to save. Or try some online games where kids can learn financial literacy.
- **2.** Give pre-teens and teenagers a monthly budget (aka pocket money/aka monthly allowance): Instead of giving them money when they want to go to the movies or hang out with friends, change your tactic. Give them an allowance. Saying no to them when they've used up their money will teach them how to budget and decide what's important and what's not.

- **3.** Pay all ages for certain chores: Obviously some chores are mandatory around the house, but you can devise other things that can be done for a price. This teaches children the value of work as a way of earning rewards. They will have more respect for your time and understand that you need to work in order to get paid, and that work isn't always fun but has to be done.
- **4.** Set up a clothing allowance. This can be linked to their monthly budget as discussed in point 2-this is especially handy for the teenagers who are always wanting the latest trend: This will help them see the difference between blowing all their money on some brand item or saving for things they really need
- **5.** Teach them to save: This is something every child needs to learn. We need to build a culture of savings not just here, but around the world. And it shouldn't just be about money, learning to be thrifty and frugal means we value everything else around us, food, water and our environment.
- **6.** Encourage them to get a job: Babysitting, helping out at a local store or restaurant will show them what it's like to work to earn money and importantly the value of that money. They also need to realize when they are young and have no experience which means they don't earn much, they need to work themselves up the ranks and gain their experience. Nothing is just given to you, nothing teaches better money management and life skills than this.

...As always we are here to assist you with any queries you may have, big or small ...

Take Care

Susan Mercer