

Money Conversation Starters for Parents & Children



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

This family activity will help you initiate some important conversations with your child(ren) about money. Help them learn about your money values and guide them as they develop their own. Avoid lecturing. Cut apart the questions below. Fold them in half and put them in a small dish or plastic bag. Use one question at mealtime, at family meetings, during a long trip, while you're washing dishes together or while you're in line at the grocery store. Create additional questions as appropriate.

If you found \$100 what would you do with it?	If your family had to cut back on spending, what are three ways you could save?	What would you like to learn about money management?
Describe a good way to save money.	Share what you would do if you wanted to buy something and you didn't have any money.	Share a goal you have. A goal is something you want to do or achieve.)
How do you make decisions about saving and spending money?	Name three things you like to do that don't cost money.	What are two inexpensive activities your family could do for fun?
Share something you have always wanted to buy but never have and why.	Describe a time when you wanted something and saved money for it before you bought it.	Describe a time when you wanted something immediately (instant gratification). What did you do?
What is your first memory about money?	Describe a time you spent money and then wished you hadn't. How did this make you feel?	Our resources include things like skills, time, and money. What are some skills you have?
What are two ways you could help others with your resources (skills, time or money)?	What does the saying, "I am not made of money" mean to you?	What does the saying, "Have a nest egg" mean to you?
What does the saying, "Save for a rainy day" mean to you?	What does the saying, "Money doesn't grow on trees" mean to you?	What does the saying, "Money can't buy happiness" mean to you?
What will your life look like in ten years?	Share how you get money? What are some additional ways you could earn more money?	How do you think money decisions are made in your family?
What does it cost to keep a car on the road?	What are three ways you contribute to the work of the family?	How would you decide whether or not to lend a friend \$10?
When we have a job we typically pay taxes before we get our paycheck. What are the taxes used for?	What is a good way to track your money (income and expenses)?	Describe a book, song or movie that taught you something about money.