

30 FAMILY FINANCE TIPS

FOR 30 DAYS IN APRIL



APRIL 1 –Create a money journal.

Track everything you spend over the next 30 days and write it down in a money journal. It will show you and the rest of your family just how easy small purchases like a morning coffee and magazine at the convenience store can really start to add up.

APRIL 2 –Discuss needs vs. wants. Sit down with your children and discuss the financial concept of needs vs. wants. Go through some of the items in their bedroom and categorize the items, whether it's a need or a want.



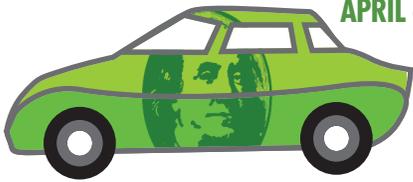
APRIL 3 –Go comparison shopping.

Talk to your child about comparison shopping and consider this fun "assignment." Give them a dollar limit that can be spent while shopping for a summer wardrobe. Visit several stores that range in price and explain the importance of comparing your options, checking sales and seeing what's out there.

You can show them that if you shop at lower-priced stores, you can get more for your budget.

APRIL 4 –Open a savings account. Show your children the different kinds of accounts available and how they work. Talk about why you put money in different accounts, for example, saving for retirement vs. saving for a family vacation.

APRIL 5 –Talk about paying bills. Discuss the importance of paying bills on time and how it affects your credit.



APRIL 6 –Discuss what it takes to buy a car.

Buying a car is a huge investment and responsibility. Talk to your kids about the car-buying process; be sure to explain the financial concepts of saving, budgeting, comparison

shopping, etc. You can find additional resources [here](#) and [here](#).

APRIL 7 –Read a money-minded book. Stop by your neighborhood library and pick up a money-minded book from this suggested reading list. (.PDF)

APRIL 8 –Review a paycheck stub. Go over your child's [paycheck stub](#) or your own if they're too young to work, and talk about the different kinds of taxes and what that money will go toward.

APRIL 9 –Introduce the concept of budgeting. Take the family grocery shopping today and discuss the importance of money management and maintaining a budget. Have your list ready; perhaps you know how much you normally spend each time and discuss in advance that you have a list and expectations of how much you can or will spend. Talk to your children about the importance of sticking to that budget.



APRIL 10 –Save \$4 today. Pass on the coffee today and pocket the money instead.

APRIL 11 –Teach Children to Save Day.

Today is National Teach Children to Save Day! [Visit this website](#) with your family to pick up a wealth of smart spending and saving tips. Have your children set a financial goal achievable by the end of this month. Write down your steps for getting there and track your progress throughout the month.

APRIL 12 –Credit cards have consequences. Show your child a credit card statement and talk with them about the importance of paying on time, interest charges, etc. (.PDF)

APRIL 13 –Play a money-minded game. Make tonight a family game night and play a money-minded game like Life® or Monopoly®.

APRIL 14 –Start adding to your piggybank.

Add something, anything, to your piggy bank today. If you don't have one, make one! Make a piggy bank using an old jar, shoe box or milk jug. Decorate it with construction paper, magazine clippings, or feathers - whatever you'd like!



APRIL 15 –Talk about taxes today.

Talk with your children about taxes today, how you pay them and what they go toward. Consider a field trip around town. Get in the car and talk about the roads, drive past the fire station and neighborhood parks and explain that those are things we pay for with our taxes.

APRIL 16 –Research college costs.

Research the difference in tuition costs between public and private universities, in-state vs. out-of-state. Don't forget about scholarship options and financial aid.



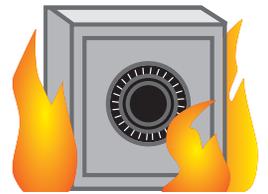
APRIL 17 –Create an emergency savings account.

If you don't already have one, now is a great time to set up an [emergency savings fund](#). Talk to your children about unexpected costs that could occur within the family and in the home.

APRIL 18 –Put important financial documents in a fireproof safe Some financial records should be kept and others you can toss. [Read more](#) about the financial records you should safely store and those you should safely dispose of.

APRIL 19 –Shred documents with financially sensitive data.

Take this opportunity to discuss identity theft. Talk about preventative steps families can take to keep their sensitive information safe and talk about steps to take after ID theft has taken place.



APRIL 20 –Make a donation. Make a donation to the charity of your child's choice; or have your child donate toys or clothes in good condition to the charity of his or her own choice. Don't forget toys and clothing donations in good condition can be deducted on next year's tax return.

APRIL 21 –Watch your green grow. Talk about the power of [compound interest](#).

APRIL 22 –Earth Day. Celebrate by walking to your destination instead of driving. Save money and the planet!

APRIL 23 –Talk to your child about entrepreneurship.

Suggest the idea of starting a small summer business. Depending on their age, some suggestions are a lemonade stand, babysitting or a lawn mowing business.

APRIL 24 –Count money with your child.

Try turning it into a game and play pretend grocery store or shopping spree.

APRIL 25 –Learn smart spending and saving.

Learn about financial concepts with [this interactive game](#) for tweens!

APRIL 26 –Have a garage sale.

Have a garage sale this Saturday and have all the proceeds go toward a family vacation or another financial goal.

APRIL 27 –Spend quality family time together, without spending money. Try riding bikes together, going to a park, or have a home-cooked family picnic.

APRIL 28 –Did you reach that financial goal? Examine whether or not you reached your family financial goal (from the fifth of this month), and discuss why or why not the goal was reached.

APRIL 29 –Budget for a family vacation. Discuss all of the financial needs you might encounter: flights and/or gas, lodging, food, souvenirs, tours, etc.

APRIL 30 –Encourage your children to save money in different ways . Show them the many different ways to save money around the house. Turning off the lights when leaving a room, turning off the water while you brush your teeth, saving a portion of your allowance for a rainy day.

