

Word Up! Get Smart About Money

Talking to Your Kids About Smart Money Habits

Families, inside you'll find:

- Tips for getting the conversation started about money
- Family activities to teach smart money habits

Plus: Encourage your child to enter **WordGirl's Power-Packed Sharing Challenge**

*Deadline: March 7, 2012
Details Inside*



For additional **free** family resources and activities, visit www.scholastic.com/wordupmoneysmarts.

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Welcome Families!



At school your child has been studying smart money habits, including **saving** for the future, **sharing** with others, and developing a plan for **spending**. But did you know that **you** are the best teacher when it comes to learning about money? Most kids pick up values and beliefs about money from their families.

This special guide is designed to help you educate your children in making healthy money management choices. Thrivent Financial has helped its members reach their financial goals and strengthen their communities for more than 100 years. Now you can use their financial education expertise to ensure that your child has a smart financial future!

Thrivent Financial

Activities to Try:

- **Activity 1, Page 3: Develop a Money Guideline.** At school your child has been learning about the three ways we can use money: we can **save** it, **share** it, or **spend** it. Everyone has to decide how they will divide their money among saving, sharing, and spending based on their personal beliefs, circumstances, and goals. Talk about your own beliefs and circumstances with your children and establish a guideline for their saving, sharing, and spending.
- **Activity 2, Page 3: Set a Savings Goal.** You can instill the importance of saving for the future by helping your child identify a savings goal as well as strategies for reaching that goal, such as cutting short-term spending and setting aside a certain portion of all money he or she receives. Cheer your child on as he or she nears the savings goal, and help him or her to make the purchase when he or she's saved the full amount.
- **Activity 3, Page 4: Talk About Sharing.** Giving back to the community is different for every family, so it's important to talk to children about how you choose to share your resources, whether it's your time, talents, or money. Use your discussion as a springboard for children to enter WordGirl's Power-Packed Sharing Challenge. For contest details, visit www.scholastic.com/wordgirlsharingchallenge.
- **Activity 4, Page 4: Be Smart About Spending.** Talk to kids about how we pay for things and the differences between cash, debit, and credit. When is it a good idea to use each form of payment? How can kids avoid overspending? (Activity 4 answers: A and C—debit; B and D—credit.)

TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT MONEY:

- **Eliminate distractions**, such as the TV, cell phones, and electronic devices. Find a quiet place where you can talk without interruptions.
- **Encourage your child** to talk about what he or she already knows about money.
- **Explain things in ways kids can understand.** For example, saving for retirement is abstract for a child. Saving for a game system is more concrete.
- **Focus on the future, not past mistakes**, such as spending birthday money on an unused toy. Concentrate on new, positive behaviors.

CONTEST!

WordGirl's Power-Packed Sharing Challenge

Deadline: March 7, 2012

In this contest, families with students in grades 3–5 will discuss ways they can become superheroes of sharing in their community! Parents/legal guardians will submit one sentence for each of these power-packed words—**share**, **need**, **impact**, **time**, **talents**, and **treasures**—to reflect their commitment to living generously.

Ten (10) winning schools (total) where the winning families' students are enrolled will each receive **\$500** and a classroom **reading library for the students' teachers**.

For Official Entry Forms and Official Rules, visit: www.scholastic.com/wordgirlsharingchallenge

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest period: October 17, 2011, through March 7, 2012. Open to parents/legal guardians who are 18 or older, with a student enrolled during the contest period in grades 3, 4, or 5 at a public, accredited private, or home school in compliance with the regulations of the entrant's state, and who are current legal residents of one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. Approximate retail value for all prizes: \$7,000. Void where prohibited. One parent/guardian entry per each eligible student.

Use separate paper as necessary for activities.

ACTIVITY

1

DEVELOP A MONEY GUIDELINE

Superheroes make a plan! Encourage your children to be like WordGirl and plan what percentage of their money they will save, what percentage they will share with others, and what percentage they will spend. Have your child write your money guideline below.

Save ____%	Share ____%	Spend ____%
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Total: 100%

Try the three-envelope system to keep track of your family guideline. Write "Save" on one envelope, "Share" on another, and "Spend" on a third, along with the percentages you have chosen. Any time your child receives or earns money, have him or her divide it among the envelopes according to your plan.

WORDGIRL TIP:
Practice math skills by figuring out how much money goes into each envelope.



ACTIVITY

2

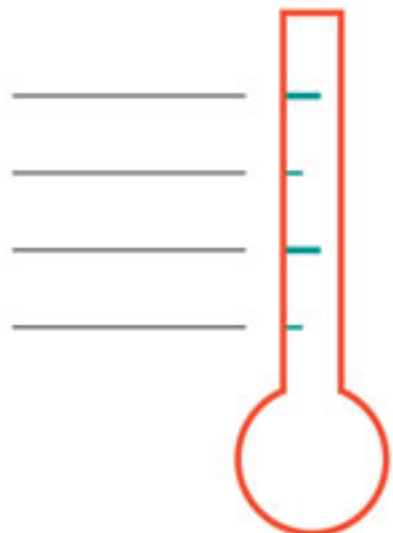
SET A SAVINGS GOAL

WORDGIRL TIP:
Talk about why it's also important to save for unexpected costs and emergencies.



Superheroes save! WordGirl sets short-term and long-term savings goals. Your child can, too. Help him or her decide on a goal, such as purchasing a new computer or going on a special trip. Help your child keep track of his or her savings progress by coloring in the thermometer to the right.

TOTAL SAVINGS AMOUNT \$ _____



Use separate paper as necessary for activities.

ACTIVITY
3

TALK ABOUT SHARING

WORDGIRL TIP:
Families can enter the WordGirl sharing contest! Go to www.scholastic.com/wordgirlsharingchallenge



Superheroes share with others! What causes or organizations are important to your family, and how can you help them? Remember, WordGirl doesn't just share her money. She also shares her time and superhero skills!

Who we want to help: _____

How we can help: _____

First steps to take: _____

ACTIVITY
4

BE SMART ABOUT SPENDING

Superheroes are smart spenders! Can your child help WordGirl identify which facts below refer to **credit cards**, and which refer to **debit** (or **cash**) **cards**? Talk about the answers as a family, and discuss steps kids can take to avoid overspending.

CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD?

A When you use this kind of card, the money comes directly from your bank account, like cash.

Answer: _____

B When you use this kind of card, you are borrowing money from the bank, which you must pay back.

Answer: _____

C To avoid overspending, the best policy is usually to use this kind of card, or cash.

Answer: _____

D This kind of card charges you interest if you don't pay your balance on time.

Answer: _____

WORDGIRL TIP:
Understanding the differences between cash and credit can help your financial future.

