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# Parenting

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# Preschooler

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/pp/>

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## Your Preschooler and Money

How much your preschooler knows about money may surprise you. Your child learns by watching what you do with money. You teach by earning, spending, saving, borrowing, and sharing.

### What preschoolers can learn at:

#### Age three

- Call a coin by its name.
- Keep money in a safe place.
- Pay for something at the store.

#### Age four

- Learn how many cents each coin is worth.
- Count cents a few coins at a time.
- Realize that when we spend money, it is gone.
- Understand that we cannot buy everything, so we have to make choices.

#### Age five

- Learn how many of one coin is the same value as another coin.
- Know how much money it costs to buy things (candy bar or video game).
- Save money.
- Spend a small amount of money.
- Learn where money comes from.
- Know banks keep our money safe until it's needed.
- Understand writing a check takes money out of the bank.
- Realize money is valuable and must be kept in a safe place. (Put real money away after playing with it. Set rules about what your child is allowed to take from your wallet or purse.)

### Help your child learn about money

- Make a bank for your child. (A clear jar with a slit in the lid lets your child "see" the money.)
- Play store with your child. Use play money for your child to buy and sell.
- Separate coins into piles by color and size. Discuss their value.
- Let your child pay for small items at the store. This helps your child get an idea of how much money is needed to buy things.
- Take your child on a shopping trip. Give a small amount of money to spend. Let your child decide what to buy. Later, talk about what your child learned.
- Encourage your child to buy things to share with others.
- Talk to your child about jobs people do. Help your child understand that people work to earn money to pay for family needs.
- Once your child can count to ten, explain how coins go together. Talk about what different coins will buy. Young children often think that the number of coins is more important than the type of coin. Children often have trouble understanding that the smaller dime is worth more than the bigger pennies and nickels. It takes time for a child to understand how many of one type of coin is equal to another.
- Make a list of things your child might buy. Talk about whether the items are needs or wants.
- When you watch TV, talk about the commercials. Explain the difference between ads and programs.
- Borrow/rent something your child must return.

## Reading books with children - a creative way to learn about money management.

Stories from books can help you teach about money. For example, discussing how Mom in Mercer Mayer's **Just Shopping with Mom** can help her children accept "no" as the answer when they have the "I wants." After talking about what others could/should do, relate the ideas in your own family.

Select from some of these books. Check your local library or bookstore.

<b>Paddy's Pay Day</b>	Alexandra Day. Penguin Group, 1989.	Age 3 and up.	Paddy is a dog who does circus acts. On his day off, he goes shopping. You can tell what's important to Paddy by what he buys with the money he earned.
<b>Tom and Annie Go Shopping</b>	Barry Smith. Houghton Mifflin, 1988.	Age 3 and up.	Tom and Annie go shopping for a lot of items. This book asks you to find the items on the shelves. Shopping isn't as easy as it looks.
<b>Just Shopping With Mom</b>	Mercer Mayer, Western, 1989.	Age 4 and up.	Mom shops with three youngsters. One has trouble accepting "no" for an answer.
<b>Ox-Cart Man</b>	Donald Hall. Scholastic Inc., 1979.	Age 4 and up.	A farm family use their time and energy and talents to grow or make almost everything they need. They also grow or make extra things to take to market and sell.
<b>Sheep In A Shop</b>	Nancy Shaw. Houghton Mifflin, 1991.	Age 4 and up.	Some sheep go shopping for a birthday gift. They find out they do not have enough money to pay for it. They decided to solve their problem by trading.
<b>The Berenstain Bears &amp; Mama's New Job</b>	Stan & Jan Berenstain. Random House, 1984.	Age 4 and up.	When Mama becomes a "business bear," the way work gets done around the house changes. Other members of the Bear family discover how to help more.
<b>The Berenstain Bears' Trouble With Money</b>	Jan & Stan Berenstain. Random House, 1983.	Age 4 and up.	Brother and sister Bear spend money as soon as they get it. Mama and Papa Bear want the cubs to understand that there is more to know about money than just how to spend it.
<b>A bargain for Frances</b>	Russell Hoban. Harper Collins, 1970.	Age 5 and up.	Frances saves and saves for a china tea set. Her friend Thelma tricks her into buying an old plastic tea set. Thelma says there are no "backsies" on the bargain. Frances finds a way to get what she really wants.
<b>A Quarter From The Tooth Fairy</b>	Caren Holtzman. Scholastic Inc. 1995.	Age 5 and up.	A boy tries to figure out how to spend the money he got from the tooth fairy. This book has notes in the front for adults and activities in the back for kids.
<b>Tight Times</b>	Barbara Shook Hazen. Viking Press, 1979.	Age 5 and up.	David learns about "tight times" and making hard decisions.
<b>A Chair For My Mother</b>	Vera B. Williams. Greenwillow Books 1982.	Age 6 and up.	A family loses all their furniture in a fire. They set a goal to buy a chair for mother. Find out how the family, neighbors and friends work together for success.
<b>Something Good</b>	Robert Munsch. Annick Press Ltd., 1990	Age 6 and up.	Tyva tries and tries to get her father to buy "something good" at the grocery store. After some trouble, Tyva's father buys her for \$29.95.

### *Sources:*

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