

Bringing Up a Nation of Savers

According to a recent survey sponsored by the American Savings Education Council in partnership with the TIAA-CREF Institute, 18% of students age 16-22 think they do a very good job of managing their money. Yet only a quarter of these students view regular savings as a very high priority. In order to ensure that kids today will be financially responsible as adults in the future, it's important that we help children develop healthy savings habits early on.

Unlike some lessons, children catch on to the idea of saving pretty quickly. After all, children are natural savers — they save everything from stickers to the latest give-aways at fast-food restaurants. With some encouragement, children can apply this same concept to saving their pennies (and nickels, dimes and quarters, too!)

One of the easiest ways to get children started on a savings plan is to put money away in a bank. You can use the bank “wrapper” at right to make a bank out of a coffee can. This exercise can help children understand why saving is important: saving now can help you get the things you want later. Saving and planning are vital to our nation's future and a value we want to pass on to the next generation of Americans.

Tips for Assembly

1. Print out this page.
2. Have child write in his/her name, savings goal, and the amount that has to be saved.
3. Cut out wrapper and glue wrapper to a coffee can.
4. Put a strip of masking tape around the rim of the can to protect against sharp edges. (This should be done by an adult.)
5. Cut a slit in the top of the plastic lid and start saving!

How Interesting...
For bigger goals in your future, consider opening a savings account. This way the bank will pay you interest on your money. Say you put \$100 in the bank earning 4% interest. After the first year, you will earn \$4 in interest for a total of \$104. What's more, your interest will earn interest, too!

I Need It or I WANT IT!

Glue or draw a picture of your savings goal HERE.

Tips for Saving MORE! Collect deposits on bottles. Save some of your allowance every week. Look for places to cut spending. Empty all the change from your pockets into your bank at the end of the day.

This BANK Belongs To:

I'm Saving For:

It really adds up
100 pennies equal \$ _____
100 nickels equal \$ _____
100 dimes equal \$ _____
100 quarters equal \$ _____
All together this equals \$ _____

What might you buy with that?