

The Berenstain Bears & Mama's New Job

By Stan and Jan Berenstain

Ages 4 and up

Parent Guide

Key Ideas: Recognizing Resources and Recognizing Success

Before You Read

The goal of *Money on the Bookshelf* is to help parents talk with their children about money. Each story deals with some special ideas about money. The Parent Guide will help you talk about and use these ideas.

Ideas, Definitions and Objectives

Idea: Recognizing Resources

Definition: Money is limited so we need to find other resources to use to get what we need. Recognizing resources means finding different ways to use what we have to get what we need.

Objective: to recognize and plan to use skills, talents, and unusual things to get what we need.

Idea: Recognizing Success

Definition: When we are able to complete a task, reach a goal, or solve a problem, it needs to be recognized as a success.

Objective: to recognize our successes and the successes of others with words of praise and encouragement.

The Story

When Mama becomes a "business bear," the way work gets done around the house changes. Other members of the Bear family learn how to help more.

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Something to Think About

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas.



Sometimes we have a talent that we can use as a resource.

Mama's skill at making quilts is a resource.

Papa's wood working skill is a resource.

The family used these skills to earn money.

Mama's new job made her happy and excited.

The family had to make adjustments to Mama's new job.

They used their own skills, or human resources, to take over some of Mama's household jobs.

They cooked dinner and did other things Mama usually did.

Mama was proud of her family.

Papa and the cubs were proud of Mama.

The family recognized each other's successes by going out to dinner.

We need to recognize a job done well.

Something To Talk About

Before you begin to read the story with your children, look at the cover of the book with them. Ask what they think the story will be about.

As you read the story with your children, talk about these ideas.

What hobby did each family member enjoy?

How did Mama's hobby become a job?

Does your child have a hobby?

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How did the Bear family feel about Mama being a “business bear?”

What was the family afraid of losing?

What did Papa and the cubs do to help themselves and each other when Mama went to work?

What successes made the family proud?

How did they recognize their successes?

What have the members of your family done that was a success?

What can your family do to show they are proud and happy about the success?

Something To Do

Grow an Indoor Plant (Ages 4 and up)

These home-grown gardens will help your child learn different ways to use resources.

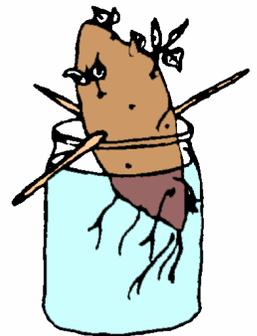
You do not need a piece of land to grow something.

Help your child use jars and food from home to start a houseplant.

Your child will have a pretty plant and maybe a new hobby.

Grow a Potato Plant: Select a sweet potato or yam with lots of “eyes” since your vine will appear from them. Wash the potato. Fill a jar or glass with water. Stick three or four toothpicks around the center of the potato. The toothpicks will hold the potato up in the jar of water. Put the jar in a sunny spot. The potato will use lots of water as it grows.

Keep the jar filled with water. The yam sprouts vine-like foliage in about a week. It flowers in trailing clusters. The flowers are green and bell-shaped.



You can also try growing other plants from groceries. Save the top half-inch of a carrot. Plant it in a container of damp sand or place it in a shallow pan of water. Cover the carrot top about halfway with either the sand or water. Put it in a warm and sunny spot. After about a

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week, a fern-like plant will start to grow. You can also try this with radishes, beets, turnips and parsnips.

Recognize Mom's (or Dad's) Success (Ages 6 and up)

This activity will help your child recognize success.

Have your child pretend to be a newspaper or television reporter.

As a reporter, have your child find out exactly what Mom does at work.

Help your child think of questions for the interview.

Your child could ask where Mom works.

What is the name of Mom's job? What is her title?

What is the best thing about her job?

What is the worst thing about her job?

Help your child write down the answers.

Plan a family get together where your child reports to the family about Mom's job.

Recognize Mom's success.

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