

Wise-Spend Wednesday

Teach kids how to make good choices with their money (needs vs. wants).

Activity Idea: The Pocket Money Plan

Introduction:

"Today, we're going to pretend you've just been given €10 in pocket money. You can spend it however you like — but you'll need to make smart choices. Some things are needs, some are wants, and sometimes it's wise to save. Let's see what happens!"

Step 1 – The Jars

"Imagine you have three jars in front of you:

- A Needs Jar — for things you must have, like food or school socks.
- A Wants Jar — for things you'd like, like toys or sweets.
- A Savings Jar — for money you keep safe for later.

Now, I want you to decide: how will you split your €10 between these jars? You can say it out loud. For example: 'I'll put €5 in Needs, €3 in Wants, and €2 in Savings.'"

(Give children a minute to share their ideas.)

Step 2 – The Shop List

"Here are some things you might spend your money on:

- A chicken fillet roll for lunch — €4
- Tayto crisps — €2
- New school socks — €3
- A toy from Smyths — €7
- Saving €5 for Tayto Park

Which of these are needs? Which are wants?"

(Discuss quickly with answers)

Step 3 – The Twist

"Now — surprise! Something happens..."

- Oh no! It's raining. You need an umbrella — it costs €4. Who has money left to buy one?
- Another day, your bike tyre bursts. Fixing it costs €3. Who can pay for it?

If you kept money in your Savings Jar, you can afford these. If you spent it all, you might have to walk or get wet!"

Step 4 – Reflection

"Let's think about what we learned:

- What things are always most important to pay for first? (Needs!)
- Why is it smart to keep some money in your Savings Jar?
- What happens if we spend too much on Wants?

That's what wise spending means — taking care of needs, saving some for later, and then enjoying a few wants if we can."

1. What does "wise spending" mean?

- A) Buying everything you want
 - B) Thinking before you spend
 - C) Spending all your money quickly
 - D) Buying things just because they're popular
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2. What is a "need"?

- A) A toy you love
 - B) A phone upgrade
 - C) Food, water, or shelter
 - D) A new pair of trainers every week
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3. Which of these is a "want"?

- A) Medicine
- B) Warm clothes in winter
- C) A new video game
- D) School books

4. If you have £10/€10 and want two things that cost £8/€8 each, what should you do?

- A) Buy both and hope no one notices
- B) Choose one and save for the other
- C) Steal the second one
- D) Ask for more money immediately

5. What does “budget” mean?

- A) The money you hide
- B) A guess about what things cost
- C) A plan for how to spend and save your money
- D) A wish list

6. Why is it important to budget?

- A) To avoid running out of money
- B) So you can show off your money
- C) To get a bigger piggy bank
- D) So you can spend more

7. Which of these should come first when you spend money?

- A) Wants
- B) Needs
- C) Sweets
- D) New gadgets

8. What’s something kids in Kenya might need to spend money on?

- A) A PlayStation
- B) School supplies or uniforms
- C) Rollerblades

D) Bubble gum

9. If you always spend more than you earn, what happens?

- A) You get extra money
 - B) You become a millionaire
 - C) You end up with debt or no money
 - D) Your wallet gets bigger
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10. What is a smart way to shop?

- A) Go without a plan
 - B) Compare prices and look for deals
 - C) Buy the first thing you see
 - D) Always buy the most expensive one
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11. What is a receipt?

- A) A ticket for a movie
 - B) A note from school
 - C) A paper or email that shows what you bought and how much you paid
 - D) A birthday card
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12. If you save £3/€3 a week and want something that costs £12/€12, how many weeks will it take?

- A) 3 weeks
 - B) 4 weeks
 - C) 6 weeks
 - D) 12 weeks
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13. Why might someone wait before buying something?

- A) To see if they still want it later
 - B) To annoy others
 - C) To spend more money
 - D) To lose interest
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14. Which of these is a wise spending tip?

- A) Spend all your money in one day
 - B) Don't check prices
 - C) Make a shopping list
 - D) Buy double of everything
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15. What can advertisements sometimes make us feel?

- A) That we need something we don't
 - B) Tired
 - C) Like eating vegetables
 - D) Like skipping school
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16. What's a good question to ask before buying something?

- A) Can I borrow more money?
 - B) What will my friends think?
 - C) Do I really need this or just want it?
 - D) Will this make me cool?
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17. You have €10 / £10 pocket money. Which choice is the wisest?

- A) Buy a school lunch (€5 / £5) and school socks (€5 / £5)
- B) Buy a toy car (€10 / £10)
- C) Buy sweets (€6 / £6) and a comic book (€4 / £4)
- D) Buy a football (€10 / £10)

18. What should you do if you're not sure whether to spend your money?

- A) Spend it anyway
 - B) Ask a trusted adult
 - C) Flip a coin
 - D) Run away
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19. How can impulse buying be a problem?

- A) You save more
 - B) You always make the best choice
 - C) You spend without thinking
 - D) You grow taller
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20. What happens when you spend wisely over time?

- A) You lose all your money
- B) You grow a money tree
- C) You can reach your savings goals
- D) You stop liking money

1, B 2, C 3, C 4, B 5, C 6, A 7, B 8, B 9, C 10, B 11, C 12, B 13, A 14, C 15, A 16, C 17, A 18, B 19, C 20, C