



Pigs & Bricks

Parents' Guide

I wrote this book to begin teaching my children about money in a fun way. The concept of give, save, spend has grown in popularity over the past few years and seemed like a great foundation. I wanted to explain it to them in simple terms and make it an enjoyable process as well. Many parents who want to encourage their children to be responsible with money have struggled with the best way to do it. I hope this story can be a first step in your child's financial education.

As you read, you may want to teach other lessons or include other activities. Here are some ideas.

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the different ways people earn money and why?
- How do you earn money and how does the family give, save, and spend it?
- What is a business and why did the Pigs start one?
- What does it mean to charge a fair price or do quality work?

Activities

- Set up three banks for your child (just like the Pigs did) and focus on giving money in increments that are easily divisible by three. (For more on this idea, see the next page.)

- Teach your child how to count money—it seems to be a dying art. Children love to play with coins; counting money is a great way to develop basic math skills.
- When choosing where to give money, involve your child in the decision and in actually giving the money—you don't want to force a cause on them or make them think that giving is a tax.
- Help your child set up a bank account and talk about the goal of putting money aside so that it can grow and be available for a rainy day. Ask the bank if they can send you monthly statements by mail—kids love to get mail and it will be a regular reminder that they are saving. (You might choose to subsidize the interest rate, as low rates might discourage a youngster.)
- Your parenting style will dictate how much you want to be involved in what your child buys. However, remember that it's much better for kids to make mistakes early on in their lives than as adults, so try to focus on giving your child first-hand experience rather than influencing every decision.

We've developed a forum for you to share your best practices and questions with other parents. Please visit www.PigsandBricks.com for more info.