



Be smart with your money



Name:
Dr Harvey

Money may not buy happiness, but it helps. It pays for the things we need to live and can make us feel secure. Stories about rising food and energy prices in the news show how important it is to be careful with money and feel confident about saving and spending it. According to GoHenry, the children's savings app, 77% of young people want to learn how to manage money before they go out into the world. So *The Week Junior* asked Dr Mara Harvey, money expert and author of the children's book *A Smart Way to Start*, to share her top tips.

Managing money is an important skill.

TOY TEST
Six to 18-year-olds are spending 32% less on toys in 2022 than they did in 2021.

1 Learn to earn

Ask parents, grandparents and neighbours if you can do chores to earn extra pocket money. These could include washing a car, sorting out the recycling or taking the dog for a walk. Before you start, agree on the value of different jobs. This is also a great way to sharpen your negotiating – or bargaining – skills, which will help when you have a grown-up job too. Be sure to do your best – you might get more work.



2 Help your money grow

Money can't grow if it's sitting inside a piggy bank. If you don't already have your own savings account, then ask your parents if they can open one for you. At the moment, interest rates are rising, so any savings will earn "interest". This is a reward from the bank for keeping your money with them. The bank gives you extra money (called interest) and puts it in your account.



3 Make a plan

If you have a big event such as a holiday or Christmas coming up, it might mean you will need to spend more of your pocket money. Try making a budget. A budget is a plan for spending and saving and will help you to take control of your money, so when you need to spend, you don't have to borrow. Write down the amount of pocket money you have and keep a note of what you are spending. A budget is useful if you are saving for a big item too.



4 Watch out for traps

Although lots of gaming apps are free to play, many come with special extra features or games that you have to pay to access. For example, these could allow you to "unlock" new levels or areas in games, they might boost your characters' powers or decorate your character in an outfit called a "skin". These are called "in-app purchases" or "in-game purchases". It can be hard to understand how much real money you're paying, so always ask an adult to check any apps and games before you start.

5 Spend wisely

Spending money wisely isn't just good for you, it can help the planet too. "Ethical spending" means making a choice to buy something based on where it comes from and how it was made. For example, rather than buying a new top, you could swap with a friend or buy something pre-loved. Look at labels too. The Fairtrade International label, for example, means you can trust that the people who made it were paid fairly.



You can find more about Dr Harvey and *A Smart Way to Start* at smartwaytostart.com

Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for lots of crafts and recipes.

