

**"It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."**

**Ann Landers**

**Few Keys to Teaching Children Financial Responsibility -**

**#1 = Turn Off the TV/Electronics.** (minimize the influence of the world in your home)

**#2 = Avoid Overindulgence** (see talk by Elder Joe J. Christensen- April 1999 Gen. Conf. = "Greed, Selfishness, and Overindulgence")

*According to Elder Christensen, as parents, we should avoid spoiling children by giving them too much.*

*Quote Elder Christensen: "In our day, many children grow up with distorted values because we as parents overindulge them. Whether you are well-to-do or, like most of us, of more modest means, we as parents often attempt to provide children with almost everything they want thus taking away from them the blessing of anticipating, of longing for something they do not have. One of the most important things we can teach our children is to deny themselves. Instant gratification generally makes for weak people. How many truly great individuals do you know who never had to struggle?"*

*From Elder Christensen's talk: "Children who always get what they want will want as long as they live."*

**#3 = Model Basic Financial Principles -**

- a. distinguish between needs and wants
- b. live within a budget
- c. avoid debt
- d. give generously to others (tithes offerings, humanitarian aid, education fund, etc.)

**#4 = Provide/Encourage Opportunities for Children to Earn Money**

**#5 = Set a Financial Responsibility for Each Child (something or things for which they need to pay)**

**#6 = Work Out a Budget**

**#7 = Provide Place for Keeping Money**

**Other Ideas/Practices for Teaching Financial Self-Reliance:**

- 1 - Have children help financially support siblings on missions.
- 2 - Have children fill in own tithing slips. Gives them ownership.
- 3 - family taxes - teach about taxes (help pay for things the whole family wants)
  - each family puts in % of earnings in a tax jar or family bank each week. At the end of the year, the family decides what to spend it on.
- 4 - When old enough, let them help with the family budget.
- 5 - Have children compute the relative value of something.....
  - How many \$2 jobs required to get? Is it worth the required work?
  - Get kids into habit of asking -"What will this cost in terms of time and labor?"
- 6 - On birthdays & holidays, aim for quality rather than quantity.
- 7 - Explain to children what you're doing as you're doing it and what it means. (using credit cards/checks, using debit cards, tips)
- 8 - Say "no" - Don't be pressured into thinking children need to have & do what their peers have & do are doing to be accepted/happy.
- 9 - Discuss with children that they can help control family expenditures by turning off lights, shutting outside doors, taking shorter showers, etc.
- 10 - Open a savings account with children and checking accounts with debit card for responsible high schoolers.
- 11 - Let children help pay bills online/balance the checkbook.
- 12 - Consider matching amounts children deposit into their savings or paying interest to motivate them to save more.
- 13 - Get grandparents involved.
- 14 - Play money games during FHE or while shopping.
- 15 - Teach children to control impulse buying by shopping with a purpose/list.
- 16 - Discourage shopping for fun, when bored, or hanging out at the mall.
- 17 - Show children how to compare prices or wait for an item to go on sale to save money.
- 18 - Learn to say to one another, "We *can't* afford it, even though we want it!" or "We *can* afford it, but we don't *need* it—and we really don't even want it!"
- 19 - Get out of debt & stay out of debt. Teach children that debt should be avoided.
- 20 - Emphasize how good it feels to use our possessions to help and lift others. That is when they are of real worth.

21- Give & take shopping they have to plan, shop  
prepare meal, clean up

# Budget for

(date: Month/Year)

Expected

Actual

**Income** (list sources)

## **Expenses**

### **Charitable Contributions:**

Tithing

Fast Offerings

Other

### **Fixed:**

Savings

Mission/College Fund

### **Variable:**

Clothes

Personal Care

Transportation

Recreation

Gifts

School Supplies

Other

**Balance**

**Actual Expenses for\_**

**(date: Month/Year)**

**Expense/Item**

**How Paid**

**Cost**