

Money Management Activities for Youth and Teens

Website: <https://www.moneyprodigy.com/fun-budgeting-activities-pdfs/>

Design Mom's Teen Budgeting Game

Suggested Age Range: For teenagers.

In just an hour of play, your teens can go through 12 months on a budget. New challenges are thrown their way for each month, such as being fined for a traffic ticket, or earning an extra \$5 in interest on savings.

Teens are given \$300 each (remember, this is a game, not the real world!), and must satisfy 9 different budgeting categories ranging from rent to movies.

- See attached: Mom's Teen-Budget-Game-3-Worksheets

The goal of the game, or how to win? Is to end the game with \$450 in savings PLUS a “Well Being” Factor of 96 or higher.

Scholastic's Trip-Planning Simulation – Going on Vacation & Calculation Vacation

Suggested Age Range: Grades 6-8

Take your child through a trip-planning simulation to teach them how to budget for something.

- See attached: Going on Vacation and Calculating Vacation

Part of your prep is coming up with a list of 6 different resorts they can choose from. Your child then must come up with both distance and costs when planning a trip to one of those locations, all while staying within the \$4,500 budget they have.

Reality Check Activity

Suggested Age Range: Not given.

A fun activity to kick-off money lessons or a money unit would be to have your child go through this Reality Check calculator.

Check it out at: <https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/support-financial-education/reality-check/>

They get to answer various questions (there are only 10) about the type of lifestyle they want to live, and then fill out estimated amounts they think they'll spend each month for specific budget categories.

Then the "reality" kicks in when they see what kind of income they'll have to maintain in order to live that lifestyle.

PlaySpent.org

Suggested Age Range: Not given.

Here's an interesting budgeting game for kids to play, that will also increase their awareness of how hard it can be to survive without a job.

Check it out at: <http://playspent.org/>

They are given the scenario that they are down to their last \$1,000 since losing their job. The object of this game is to use that \$1,000 as wisely as possible so that they can live with it over one month.

Investigation of Regional Housing Costs

Suggested Age Range: Grades 10-12

In this budgeting scenario, teens are asked to look at the finances and situation of Trish and Scott who want to move from Annapolis, MD to somewhere else for a job offer.

Teens then must analyze the housing costs for one of their new job offers and see if they can or cannot afford to accept the job and move there.

Such a valuable financial lesson to learn young (especially since because young adults are least able to afford high-cost-of-living areas).

- See attached: Investigation of Regional Housing Costs Worksheet

The Art of Budgeting

Suggested Age Range: 14-18 years

What I specifically like about this lesson is the “Rework a Budget” section, found on Page 11.

Teens are given the chance to budget for a girl named Gabrielle. And then, they’re asked to rework the budget once her month actually played out – which is such a great lesson because, let’s face it, planned budgets and planned spending is often not what happens in real life.

Yet, you want to teach teens to learn early on that just because your planned spending and your actual spending aren’t the same, doesn’t mean you should give up on budgeting.

Instead, rework it! They’ll get better and better with doing that, the more they budget.

- See attached: The Art of Budgeting

Shopping on a Budget Activity

Suggested Age Range: Not given.

This budgeting activity for children attempts to bring awareness to how difficult it can be to feed your family nutritious food on a low budget.

- See attached: Shopping on a Budget

Create a Savings First Aid Kit

Suggested Age Range: 13-19 years

One of the most valuable parts of this activity is having teens complete the simple acts of:

Brainstorming possible unexpected expenses that pop up in life

Determine if those expenses are an emergency, or not

- See attached: Creating-savings-first-aid-kit_worksheet
- See attached: Creating-savings-first-aid-kit_guide-Parent&Teacher Sheet

Money Prodigy – Budgeting Scenarios for High School Students

Here's how this works:

Your child uses a fortune teller (free printable) to determine which one of 4 Avatars they are. The avatars have both a female and a male name, but the information is the same — so it doesn't matter if a boy or a girl gets that avatar.

They read up on their salary information, budgeting information, and general financial information. Each avatar is at a different stage in their career, and in a different stage of life (so lots of possibilities to play several rounds of this).

They fill in a budgeting sheet based on the information they've been given.

Then, the simulation really begins. They take a turn with the fortune teller again, which spits out a real-life scenario. Once they figure out what their new situation is, they need to deal with it within their current budget constraints.

Your teen then fill in follow-up questions and information about how things went for them.

- See attached: Money-Prodigy