

5 Simple Saving Tricks

Source: The Mint (themint.org)

How good a saver are you? Is it easy to save money or is it tough? Here are some simple tricks to help you save money.

Trick #1: Four banks, not one!

Want a smart way to control your money? Open four different accounts. Label each account with the way you'll use the money: SAVE, SPEND, INVEST, and GIVE.

A spending account for money to be used soon on everyday things.

A saving account for money to be used later on larger items.

An investing account for money that will be used several years from now.

A giving account for gifts to help others.



Trick #2: Set Savings Goals!

How much should you save each month? That depends on what you're saving for. For example, you want to buy a new bike, but your parents say that you have to save \$100 of the bike's price before they will pay the rest. It can be tough to earn \$100 in a short amount of time. That's why money-smart kids have savings goals – and stick to them.

If you saved \$25 each month (\$6.25 a week), you could buy that bike in four months! And if you saved \$50 each month, you could buy that bike in two months! Sweet! The more you can save, the quicker you get the bike.

Money-smart kids who stick to their savings goals make things happen!

Trick #3: Save First, Not Last!

What's the FIRST thing you do when you get paid? You divide your money and put it in your four accounts. If you want that bike, you have to be sure that money goes into the SAVE account FIRST. Talk to your parents about your plan. They might separate that SAVE money from your allowance so that you can easily put it in the SAVE account right away.

Here's why putting your SAVE money into your account first is important. Listen up! THIS IS A BIG RULE about money. You can spend it only once. Let's say you use all of your SPEND money to go to a movie and you spend \$8.50 of your SAVE money on pizza and soda. That money is gone. You can't use it for your bike. Your dream of a bike just got farther away.

Trick #4: Cut your expenses

Get a notebook that you use only to keep track of your money. Write down any money you spend. Try to keep a money diary. List what you bought, when you bought it, how much it cost, and why you bought the item. Your money diary will teach you something about yourself. For example, you may find that you spend \$5 a week on snacks from vending machines at school. Are those snacks worth that money? Or would you rather save that money for something else? Don't eat the snacks, and you get closer to buying the bike.

Trick #5: When you do spend, be a smart shopper

Okay, you've got some money and you're ready to buy a pair of shoes. You've saved that money, so make it work for you.

Remember to shop smart! Check out prices. You can buy those shoes in plenty of places. Figure out where you can get the best buy for your money. Look for sales and coupons. If you save a dollar, that means you can spend it on something else. Or add it to your SAVE account for your bike.