Raising Financially Literate Kids

Kingdom Family Ministry | Parenting Resource | Age-by-Age Checklist

WHY THIS MATTERS — AND HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Children who learn about money at home are significantly more likely to save, avoid debt, and make healthy financial decisions as adults. You do not need to be a financial expert to teach your kids about money — **you just need to start the conversation at the right age and keep building on it.** Use this checklist as a guide, not a grade. Check off milestones as you reach them. It is never too late to start.

■ The most powerful financial lesson you can give your child is letting them see you make thoughtful, intentional decisions about money. Kids absorb what they observe long before they absorb what they are taught.

AGE-BY-AGE MILESTONE CHECKLIST

Age Group	Milestone Checklist — Check Off As You Go
Ages 3–5 Early Learners	■ Introduced the idea of money — coins have different values. ■ Uses a piggy bank or clear jar so they can see savings grow. ■ Understands the difference between 'want' and 'need.' ■ Helps with simple chores without expecting payment. ■ Celebrates when the piggy bank gets full.
Ages 6–8 Foundation	■ Receives a small weekly allowance tied to responsibilities. ■ Has three jars or envelopes: Save, Spend, Give. ■ Makes simple spending choices at a store with their own money. ■ Understands that money runs out and must be earned. ■ Has given something — to church, a cause, or someone in need.
Ages 9–11 Building Skills	■ Helps with the grocery list and understands unit pricing. ■ Earns money for extra tasks beyond regular responsibilities. ■ Sets a savings goal for something they want and works toward it. ■ Understands what a bank account is and how interest works (simply). ■ Knows the family does not buy everything they want — and why.
Ages 12–14 Growing Responsibility	■ Has their own savings account — knows the balance. ■ Understands what a budget is and helps create one for a family event. ■ Knows what a credit card is and the danger of debt. ■ Has had a conversation about needs vs. wants vs. investments. ■ Earns money through neighborhood jobs, babysitting, or yard work.
Ages 15–17 Pre-Independence	■ Has or is working toward their first part-time job. ■ Manages a monthly budget for personal expenses (clothing, outings). ■ Understands what a credit score is and why it matters. ■ Has opened or discussed opening a checking account. ■ Understands the basics of taxes — what they are and why we pay them. ■ Has discussed college costs, student loans, and alternatives with parents.
Ages 18+ Launching	■ Has a checking and savings account in their own name. ■ Has filed or helped file their own taxes. ■ Understands their credit score and how to build it responsibly. ■ Can create and follow a monthly budget independently. ■ Knows the difference between good debt and bad debt. ■ Has had a full conversation about financial independence with parents.

MY CHILD'S NEXT STEP — FILL THIS IN

My Child's Name & Age

Name:

Age:

Stage I am focusing on:

One Milestone to Work On

The milestone we are working toward:

How we will practice it:

One Conversation to Have

A money topic I want to discuss with my child:

The best time to have that conversation:

■ KFM FAMILY FIRST PROGRAMS — Emergency Assistance for Families in Need

Kingdom Family Ministry's **Family First Programs** provide emergency assistance to families in need. Our goal is to strengthen families with meaningful, responsible support. Assistance is available once per service category within a 12-month period, based on funding availability.

Serving Montgomery County and North Harris County area families.

Learn more and apply:

www.kingdomfamilyministry.org/gethelp

✉ support@kingdomfamilyministry.org

☎ 936-280-0822

If your family is going through a hard season, you do not have to face it alone. Reach out.

RESOURCES

NGPF — Next Gen Personal Finance
ngpf.org — Free financial literacy lessons and activities organized by grade level.

Money as You Grow (CFPB)
consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/money-as-you-grow — Age-by-age money activities from the federal government.

KidsHealth — Teaching Kids About Money
kidshealth.org — Simple explanations of money concepts written for both parents and kids.

Practical Money Skills
practicalmoneyskills.com — Free games, lessons, and resources for teaching kids about budgeting and saving.

Jump$tart Coalition
jumpstart.org — National standards and resources for financial literacy education from kindergarten through college.

✥ FAITH & ENCOURAGEMENT

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” — Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

Teaching your children about money is an act of love and faithfulness. Every conversation, every saved allowance, every 'not right now' teaches them something that will protect them for life. You are not just raising kids — you are raising the next generation of faithful stewards.

My Prayer / Reflection

My Action Step This Week