

8-12

Money activities

The gift of giving

Understanding the different ways we give and receive is an integral part of understanding money – here are some fun ways to bring the topic to life with your child.



Charity begins at home

Encourage your child to select some old toys to donate to charity. Tell them about the different charity shops near you, explaining what they raise money for, and ask them to choose a cause to support. When they drop their donation off, encourage them to take a look around, and use this as an opportunity to explain that buying from a charity shop is another way of giving to the cause.

Thinking of others

Next time you're headed to the supermarket, ask your child to come and help you with the shop. See if they can spot any buy-one-get-one-free offers on the items you're shopping for and if they do, take the spare packet to your local food bank for those in need.

Ask the family

Encourage your child to ask friends and family members about the best thing they've ever been given. Was it expensive or something that was 'free'? What made it so special?

Get creative

Ask your child to think about some different ways they could raise money for charity, such as holding a bake sale. Encourage them to get creative in their preparations, designing a poster to promote their event or chosen cause, and to plan their budget, calculating the costs of ingredients as they go. This is also a great way for them to understand that there are things they can give, such as their own time and effort, that don't cost a thing.



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NatWest

We are what we do

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Be prepared

Collect three clear jam jars for your child and label one 'spending', one 'saving', and one 'sharing'. They can split their pocket or birthday money between these jars, watching as their money accumulates, and then choose how to use the money set aside for sharing. It might be spending it on a birthday present for a sibling or donating some to an animal charity. Encourage them to talk you through their decision.



It's good to talk

Take the opportunity to talk openly with your child about giving. Tell them about the different ways you give and ask them for their opinions and ideas. What kind of giving do they benefit from? How can they give back? How does it make them feel? Exploring the more emotional side of giving will help them understand its importance.

Time and thought

Task your youngster to do some research and see if there are any volunteering opportunities in the area that your family could take part in – it could be anything from a litter-pick to helping out at the local animal shelter, or even as simple as bringing in the bins for an elderly neighbour each week. Talk to them about random acts of kindness and encourage them to think about ways of giving that don't involve any money. What is the 'cost'?

Make a gratitude balance sheet

Challenge your child to design their own balance sheet, with 'Things I have given' in one column and 'Things I've received' in another. Stick it on the fridge and encourage them to fill it in over a few weeks. Discuss it as they do so: which column has more entries in it? If 'receiving' has more listed, what could they do to balance it out?

My balance sheet

Things I have given

50p to dog charity
Old toy to little sister

Things I've received

£3 pocket money
Comic from Gran
New Batman t-shirt

