

BUDGETING ACTIVITY #1: WHAT IS A BUDGET?

KEY

A	1
B	20
C	6
D	14
E	18
F	9
G	26
H	3
I	10
J	4
K	2
L	8
M	15
N	21
O	25
P	16
Q	22
R	24
S	13
T	5
U	17
V	23
W	12
X	11
Y	19
Z	7

This puzzle is called a cryptogram. The phrase encoded in the cryptogram will tell you what a budget is.

Each of the blanks at the bottom has a number beneath it. Using the key to the left, fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.

 1 20 17 14 26 18 5 10 13

 1 16 8 1 21 5 25

 14 18 5 18 24 15 10 21 18 3 25 12

 15 17 6 3 15 25 21 18 19 19 25 17

 3 1 23 18 5 25 13 16 18 21 14

 1 21 14 14 18 6 10 14 18 3 25 12

 19 25 17 16 8 1 21 5 25

 13 16 18 21 14 10 5

BUDGETING ACTIVITY #2: MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

This activity will help you and your family talk about the importance of household finances while raising awareness about the monthly cost of things you take for granted such as lights, hot water, heat, and a place to live.

You and your family will learn why you can't always purchase that new video game, toy, clothing or upgrade for your house, and why it is important to save for those kinds of things because money does not grow on trees.

Materials needed:

- Play money
- Your monthly household bills
- Paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Calculator

How to play:

- 1) Determine your monthly budget.
- 2) Give each child an appropriate amount of play money to cover monthly household expenses and give some spending money.
- 3) Have everyone sit down and review the actual household bills (water, mortgage, cable, electricity, phone, etc.)
- 4) Explain each bill and discuss the bills as a family. Have the children pay the amount due with their play money.
- 5) The kids can decide what to do with the money they have left after the bills are paid. Discuss ways for them to save the money to purchase something they'd like or how they could donate to a worthy cause.
- 6) As a family, talk about the ways you could save money on household expenses, so there's more money left each month for other things they may want to purchase.

Can you save water by turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth?

Can you save electricity by making sure the lights are off when no one is in the room?

Can an extra blanket or sweatshirt keep you just as warm as turning up the heat?

Can you clip coupons for groceries?

Could you eat at home instead of going to a restaurant or getting takeout?

- 7) Repeat this game each month and compare the current month's bills to the previous month's bills so everyone can see the savings for themselves!



BUDGETING ACTIVITY #3: FAMILY FUN NIGHT ON A DIME

This activity is a great way to get your entire family involved in working toward a common goal on a budget. Parents and children can work together to put on a fun night for the entire family while learning how to make the most of the money you have.

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Tape
- Household materials

How to play:

1) Set a realistic budget for your family fun night event. The total budget does not have to be a lot of money. Use the budget worksheet on the next page to plan your family fun night.

2) Get your family together to decide on a theme for your special night. Here are some ideas:

- Princess Night
- Mexican Night
- Cars Night
- Sports Night
- Tea Party
- Music Night
- Pajama Party
- Karaoke Night
- Movie Night
- Family Game Night
- Make Your Own Pizza Party
- Chinese Night

Notes:



BUDGETING ACTIVITY #3: FAMILY FUN NIGHT ON A DIME

ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

As a family, determine the theme of your fun night and list it on the top of the provided worksheet. Also, discuss what your total budget is and allocate a portion of the money to each line item associated with the part (food, decorations, etc.) by listing the amount you want to spend in the 'Budget' column.

Remember that your anticipated expenses cannot exceed your total budget. After you purchase items for your fun night, record the amount of money you actually spent in each area in the 'Actual' column. Add notes to remember how you spent your money if it will help spark the family discussion following the event.

Family Fun Night Worksheet			
Theme:		Total Budget:	
Item	Budget	Actual	Notes
Food			
Beverages			
Decorations			
Costumes/Clothing			
Fun Activities			
Other			
Total			



BUDGETING ACTIVITY #4: CAN YOU FIND IT FOR LESS?

This activity is a great way to get your entire family involved in working toward a common goal on a budget. Parents and children can work together to put on a fun night for the entire family while learning how to make the most of the money you have.

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Tape
- Household materials

How to play:

- 1) As a family, brainstorm a list of 2-3 items that the family may want to purchase.
- 2) Discuss how much you think these things might cost and come up with an estimate.
- 3) Search online, flip through catalogs, and browse weekly sales circulars as a family to figure out the actual cost of the item on your list.
- 4) Discuss how an item may cost less online, but by adding shipping costs, the total may actually be higher than a store that offers free shipping or at a physical store. Add shipping costs where applicable.
- 5) Write the various prices from each store next to each item.
- 6) Pull your original estimates for each item and discuss how close or far off you were from your estimates. Would you consider different makes or models based on the prices you found?
- 7) Commend the family for taking the time and care to find low-cost alternatives to items of interest.

After everyone has looked for the best deal, discuss as a family where the best place would be to purchase the item. Weigh options such as:

- How close the store is to your house - consider time and gas prices.
- Online shipping fees.
- Reward points that may help to defray the expense at certain stores.
- Extended warranties.

BUDGETING ACTIVITY #4: CAN YOU FIND IT FOR LESS?

ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

Once you decide upon the item(s) your family would like to search for, fill in the item's name on the top line of this worksheet. As you search circulars, catalogs, and the web for pricing information, fill in the chart with pertinent information, including the store's name, item's price, sales tax, shipping fees (if applicable) and then total the charges to determine which purchasing option is right for your family.

Use the notes column to keep track of details you would like to consider when making a decision to buy, such as store points, item's specifications or brand, etc.

Family item #1					
Item:					
Store	Price	Tax	Shipping	Total	Notes

Family item #2					
Item:					
Store	Price	Tax	Shipping	Total	Notes