

Tracks to Transition: Teaching Teens about Money.

Understanding money is important because it will allow your teen to do things by themselves such as:

- do their own shopping
- open a bank account
- rent movies
- buy tickets for entertainment like amusement parks and concerts

Here are some ways to teach your teen about money:

- Practice pointing out different coins and paper bills. Use real money so they get used to using it.
- Practice math skills by using addition and subtraction workbooks.
- There are apps to use on your phone or tablet like “Dollars & Cents”.
- Boardgames like Monopoly, Life, Budget Town and Budget City.
- Let your teen pay in cash for a few simple items when possible.
- Use the **dollar over** or **next dollar** method for showing your teen how to pay in cash.
 - Teach your teen how to give one more dollar than the cost of item(s).
 - For example, if the price is \$4.65 your teen would give the cashier \$5.00. They need to learn to count up one dollar from the price.
- Teach your teen to use a debit card. The parent or caregiver should still manage the amount of money in the account.
 - This may be a more difficult for your teen to understand, since they can't see the money they are using.
- Most teens are visual learners. They learn best by practicing real situations and then paying for real things that they want.
- If your teen is given an allowance, help them keep track of where they spend their money by writing it down in a notebook.
- Teach your teen how to save their money for a big purchase.

Resources:

5 ways to teach money management to older children with special needs

<https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2014/12/04/5-ways-to-teach-money-management-to-older-children-with-special-needs/>

Tips for teaching kids with special needs about money

https://bethkobliner.com/advice_basics/kids-special-needs-disability-money/