



ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Grade Levels: 2 – 3

Time to Complete: 30 Minutes

State Standard Met: Financial Responsibility and Decision-Making

Activity Guide – Save, Spend or Give?

In this event-based activity, students will decide how to use their money (save, spend, or give it).

Materials Needed:

- Game Boards (10)*
- Play Money (\$2,400 in total)*
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils (for the optional activity)

**included in kit. Kit contains enough for 10 students.*

Instructions

Step 1:

Each student gets a game board and \$240 in paper money.

Optional Activity: allow students to decorate their game boards using markers, crayons or colored pencils.

Step 2:

Students should set \$60 of the \$240 to the side of the game board and place the remaining money on the game board in the wallet.

Step 3:

Read through Event Set #1 (next page) as the students decide which envelope (i.e., save, spend or give) they should move the money in their wallet to. Take time after every event scenario to share with students the importance of balance between save, spend and give and how needs versus wants impact decisions we make with our money.

Students will need to manage their money without running out. If the student decides they do not want to give or spend their money during a particular event, then they may move their money to the save envelope. If they run out of the money they have in their wallet, they can start taking money from their save envelope. If they do not have any money in their save envelope or wallet, they will need to skip the next question. Students should be encouraged to do at least one each action (i.e., save, spend, or give).

Step 4:

As you read-off “earn” events, students should use the money they placed off to the side of their game board during set-up.

Step 5:

After all events are read, have students count how much money they have in each envelope (i.e., save, spend or give). Allow them time to think about their choices. Prompt a discussion around the amounts they have leftover, turning it into a class discussion based off their individual opinions and thoughts. There are no right or wrong answers. Have students reset their game boards placing \$60 to the side and the rest of their money in their wallet before reading through Event Set #2.

Event Set #1

– (\$40)	Spend or Save: You want a new pair of shoes.
– (\$30)	Give or Save: The animal shelter is asking for donations.
+ \$20	Earn (wallet) or Save: Your grandma gives you money for your birthday.
– (\$5)	Spend or Save: You want a special treat at the grocery store.
– (\$35)	Give or Save: Your neighborhood is looking for donations to update the playground in the nearby park.
– (\$20)	Spend or Save: You need a new bike helmet.
+ \$20	Earn (wallet) or Save: You earned money for completing your weekly chores.
– (\$15)	Spend or Save: Your sports team needs new uniforms.
+ \$20	Earn (wallet) or Save: You earned money for mowing your neighbor's lawn.
– (\$25)	Spend or Save: It's your best friend's birthday and you want to give them a present.

Event Set #2

– (\$20)	Spend or Save: You are throwing a party and want to buy decorations.
+ \$30	Earn (wallet) or Save: Your neighbor held a bake sale and you worked a few hours.
– (\$40)	Spend or Save: You need a new backpack.
– (\$5)	Spend or Save: Your sibling wants a new toy.
– (\$15)	Give or Save: Your school is asking for donations for the local library.
– (\$35)	Spend or Save: Everyone is going to the amusement park this weekend.
– (\$10)	Spend or Save: You want a new book to read.
+ \$30	Earn (wallet) or Save: Your sibling gave you money for helping clean their room.
– (\$30)	Spend or Save: Your favorite shoes are worn out and now you need new ones.
– (\$20)	Spend or Save: You want to go bowling with a friend.

Discussion Questions

- How much did you have saved at the end?
- How much did you spend? What about give?
- How much did you earn? What would have happened had you not gotten that money?
- Why is it important to save?
- How could you have saved more?
- What were some needs? What were some wants? How can we tell the difference?
- Why would you give money away?
- If you ended up with money in your wallet at the end of the game, what would you do with it? Would you add it to your savings or keep it in your wallet? Why?