



1-800-655-6303

- Money Management Lessons For Kids • Client Reminders
- Temporary Credit Card Numbers: An Overview
- Spare Change • Frugal Child Care Tips
- Inspiring Thoughts

Welcome to the Freedom Debt Relief monthly newsletter! As part of our ongoing goal to enhance our services, we will be sending you a monthly newsletter filled with interesting articles and helpful financial tips and advice. We hope you enjoy this issue, and that you find the enclosed information helpful as you continue on the road to financial freedom.

Money Management Lessons For Kids

If you are a parent or guardian have you considered that your spending habits might be shaping a future spender? Here are a few ideas that might help instill responsible spending habits in the young person in your life.

Youngsters

Even children who aren't in school yet can pick up good money lessons. You may want to use everyday activities as opportunities to teach youngsters the value of money.

For example, a trip to the grocery store might be a good time to explain the value of price comparison, using coupons and comparing



products. When you feel that the time is appropriate you could begin giving

your child an allowance for different incentives.

Older Children

Older children should be able to understand the key concepts of long-term and short-term saving.

Also children may start to understand higher concepts such as doing a job well done and time management.

Once you feel your child is old enough to understand the value of money you may decide to build their understanding of budgeting, setting realistic financial goals and the importance of delayed gratification.



Teen Years

At this age, it is important for children to be able to manage more of their expenses. Even if your teen is busy with school activities, remember that odd jobs, such as mowing lawns in the summer or babysitting, can be valuable learning experiences.

If your teenager wants a cell phone, you could let them research phones and plans. Discuss their research and make them partially responsible for the monthly bill. This may also make them more selective about add-ons and their service options.

When he/she expresses interest in purchasing an expensive item, such as a computer, take this opportunity to help show them how many hours they will need to work to pay for the item. Emphasize the difference between wants vs. needs.

College Years

Living within your means is a concept that is difficult to live by. However it is a good idea to remember that every choice your son or daughter makes – from renting an apartment to purchasing a vehicle – can impact their financial situation.

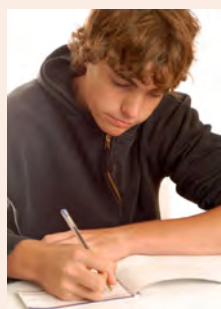
If your young adult makes a bad money decision at some point try to avoid bailing them out. Giving them a chance to learn valuable money lessons now can have a positive influence on future financial choices that they make.



Teen Checking Accounts: Is Your Child Ready?

When your child reaches his or her teen years, you may begin to consider whether or not they are ready to open a personal checking account. Here are a few things to consider.

Finding The Right Account. Fees and minimum balance requirements vary depending on banks and types of checking accounts. Help your child research what account would best meet their needs and



encourage them to research different institutions to see who can give them the best offer. Many banks offer special checking accounts for students. Ask you bank if they offer this option.

Account Basics. Once they open an account, stress to your teen the importance of needs vs. wants and keeping track of expenses. Remind them that withdrawing in excess of their balance can result in costly fees and penalties. Discuss ways to monitor the balance of his/her account – by

managing a paper check register or through an online banking website, text alerts or electronic apps. Consider whether it would be a good idea for your teen to open a checking account that has a debit or ATM card. It would be wise for your teen to have experience managing such an account responsibly prior to graduating high school and heading off to college or away from home.

Prevent Identity Theft. Checks, debit cards, personal identification numbers, account statements and passwords must be safeguarded at all times. Help your teen consider ways to keep their personal information private in public places they may frequent such as gyms or dorm rooms.

Serve As Your Child's Money Coach. It is crucial for a parent to be actively involved in making sure children learn fundamental financial concepts. Banks make it easier for parents and guardians by requiring them to co-sign on the teen's checking account creating a partnership between adult, child and bank. This could benefit your teen, making money guidance available when they take this important step.



freedom

DEBT RELIEF

Client Reminders

Visit Us On The Web

You can view your accounts statuses, view upcoming drafts, submit customer service requests, and more online. Go to www.fdrclient.com (you can also access by clicking the "Clients" link at the bottom of any page on www.freedomdebtrelief.com). If you already have an online user account, enter your email address and password to sign in. Otherwise, click "Register Here" and follow the instructions to validate your information and create a user account.

Keep Track Of Your Draft Date

Mark your calendar on the dates your drafts are scheduled and make sure the funds are available to be drafted on those dates. Missing drafts can have a negative impact on the success of your program as it limits our ability to negotiate settlements for you. Many people find it easier to stay on track if they schedule their drafts on a bi-weekly or semi-monthly basis. Contact Client Services to find out how.

Be Prepared For Our Correspondence

Some settlements are very time sensitive and require immediate approval. Please respond promptly to our settlement approval notices by either replying to your negotiator's email "I Approve", visiting us on the web via your client portal, or by calling our Client Services Department at (800)655-6303, option 3 to approve the settlement verbally.

E-mail:
support@freedomdebtrelief.com

Customer Service:
1-800-655-6303

FAX No:
650-393-6800

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Thurs:

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. PST

Fri: 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PST

Sat: 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. PST



SPARE CHANGE

College Bound? Keep Info Safe

Identity theft is one of the biggest threats on college campuses today. According to Javelin Strategy & Research's 2012 identity-fraud report, the average amount stolen from a student is \$2,693, compared with \$1,513 for all fraud victims.

Here are some tips from the Wall Street Journal to help college students protect themselves.

Take Inventory. Before you leave for school or when you first arrive in your dorm, take inventory of all of your belongings and take photos of your possessions.

If you loan anything to friends, make note of it via a checklist or some other system so you can be sure to get it back at the end of the school year.

Guard Your Belongings. Do not leave your personal belongings unattended. Keep your cellphone, keys, wallet or purse with you at all times. Also, keep anything with an account number in a safe place such as a locked drawer or small combination safe. Rather than receiving paper statements each month, you may instead opt to have this correspondence sent to you electronically.

Be Discreet When Online. Remember that what you share on social-media websites can be used against you. Simply sharing your name, address and birthday could put you at risk for identity theft.

Be sure to create strong passwords for your accounts. Lock your tablet and cell phone with passwords as well.

Cool Websites To Try

Here are a few interesting and fun websites to check out courtesy of Real Simple magazine.

Ecycler.com: Do you have a printer, computer monitor or an answering machine you no longer want? Recycle it!

Go to Ecycler.com and type in what you want to dispose of. You'll receive a list of independent collectors who can salvage that item for free.

Letschipit.com: If you have a painting or a photograph with a color scheme you would like to emulate for your home, let this site do the matchwork.

Just upload your image to this site and it will search a database of paint colors to produce a palette of up to 10 choices that match the image.



Fun Money Facts

Q. What denominations of bills were first printed?

A. The first paper notes were printed in denominations of 1 cent, 5 cents, 25 cents, and 50 cents.

Q. How long does money last?

A. That depends on the denomination of the note. A \$1 bill lasts 18 months; \$5 bill, two years; \$10 bill, three years; \$20 bill, four years; and \$50 and \$100 bills, nine years. Bills that get worn out from everyday use are taken out of circulation and replaced.

Q. How much does \$1 million weigh?

A. That would depend on the denomination of the bills you use. Since there are 490 notes in a pound, if you used \$1 bills it would weigh 2,040.8 pounds, but if you used \$100 bills it would weigh only 20.4 pounds.

Source: U.S. Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Web: www.bep.treas.gov.



CHILD CARE

Find The Services You Need With These Helpful Tips

In order to earn an income, many families must rely on adequate child care for their children during the work day.

According to the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), a U.S. family with one four-year-old child encounters average annual costs of \$3,016 to \$9,628 (depending on state) in child care fees. The following organizations and programs may help you defray some child care expenses.

Child Care Aware: When you begin your search for choosing quality child care, you may want to begin by accessing the services of the Child Care Aware program, a national non-profit initiative offered by NACCRRA. Child Care Aware is committed to helping parents find the best information on locating quality child care in their community. You can visit them online at www.childcareaware.org or call 1-800-424-2246 to reach their national toll-free information hotline.

Their educational web site allows you to enter your zip code and they will give you the contact information for a local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency.

You may also enter your zip code to receive the average rates for child care in your area.

State Child Care Assistance:

According to NACCRRA, state-funded child care is available in every state, but the eligibility guidelines vary.

Your local CCR&R may help you determine if you qualify. In most cases, eligible participants



pay a portion of child care costs, and the rest of the funds are paid directly to the child care provider.

Employer Support: Find out if your employer offers on-site child care at reduced rates or discounts for child care programs. If you are a student, your

local college or university may provide on-site care.

Some employers also offer a Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP), which allows you to have tax-free money deducted from your paycheck and deposited into an account that is used to pay child care expenses.

Head Start Programs: Head Start and Early Head Start are federally and state-funded programs that provide child care and educational needs to children who qualify.

For more information, visit <http://transition.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs>.

Tax Credits: Keep in mind that you may receive tax credits that can be put towards child care expenses.

During tax time, consult the advice of a tax professional that can help you verify if you qualify for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Federal Child Tax Credit, or any state earned income and dependant care tax credits.

Family Child Care: Family child care providers offer child care in their own home. Regulations vary by state.

Also, some parents save money by entrusting a responsible friend or family member to care for their child.



Inspiring Thoughts

The consumption society has made us feel that happiness lies in having things, and has failed to teach us the happiness of not having things.

~Elise Boulding

The desire to acquire material things may cause a negative impact on your life and create other problems. Perhaps you are experiencing debt as a result of always needing to buy the "bigger and better" gadget or the "new and improved" formula. A hobby or collection interest may have also caused financial havoc.

Remember when you first ventured out on your own and you had very few things. Throughout the years, you may have accumulated many pieces of furniture, tools, clothes, electronics, etc. Consider how these possessions affect your life. You may have to work longer hours to pay for these things, sacrificing time with your friends and family. You may constantly worry about cleaning and organizing your things, which could keep you from enjoying the simple pleasures of life. If you continue to purchase items, you may soon outgrow your space and have to move to a bigger house or apartment, resulting in even higher costs.

Consider how much easier your life could be if you choose simplicity. There is nothing wrong with enjoying a few luxuries or modern conveniences, as long as it is done in moderation and fits into your budget. Simplicity, in regards to your finances, means to eliminate the extra clutter from your life and to purchase something only when you absolutely need it.

Consider ways to eliminate some of the clutter from your life. Then, when you do have to purchase a new item, exercise good budgeting skills.

For example, opt for a less expensive television instead of a new model that costs thousands of dollars. The latter may be bigger and more eye-catching, but the smaller television will serve its purpose.

Simplifying your life may require you to make some lifestyle changes. Once you regain control of your "stuff", you may have more time to enjoy other aspects of life and be one step closer to financial freedom.



"The customer service I experienced during this stressful time was over the top. All members of your staff should feel a special satisfaction with the job you are doing. Thank you!" - J.M.

Temporary Credit Card Numbers: An Overview

As extra protection against identity theft and fraud, some consumers are opting to use single-use temporary credit card numbers in lieu of their actual credit card number.

These numbers (also called disposable, secure or virtual credit card numbers) are linked to your credit card account. Purchases that you make with your temporary number will post on your statement just like all of your other transactions.

VAN Options

One-time use numbers can help protect you against identity fraud. If, for example, you want to purchase an item from your favorite online retailer, you can use the VAN number that can only be used once instead of your real account number. If a thief gains access to the website where you've shopped, the hacker will only get



access to your VAN, not your actual account number.

The temporary number you used and that number can't be used again, leaving your real credit card number safe. Some banks offer sophisticated VAN programs where you can get numbers that can be used multiple times for recurring purchases.

Other banks offer basic VAN programs where you can get a number for a one time use. Some even offer selectable dollar-limits and date-limits. Any number you generate is always locked to one merchant (whomever uses the number). But if you want, you can also generate a number that's good until a date of your choosing (max of 12 months) and/or a dollar limit.

Most major card issuers offer virtual account numbers (VANs) however, some do not. Be sure

to check with your lender to see if they offer this option if you are interested.

Things To Consider

Those who consider trying VANs should also be aware that these temporary numbers can expire. The length of time that the numbers are valid varies among issuers. If you are interested in using one of these numbers for a recurring payment, be sure you are aware when the number is supposed to expire and update all of your account information as soon as possible.

Alternatives To 'Virtual' Credit Cards

If you still aren't sold on the temporary credit card idea, there are other ways to shop online without a credit card.

You could consider using Paypal for some transactions. More online retailers are accepting payments from this online payment service. You may also want to consider Google Wallet for an additional layer of protection.

However, be aware that any time you are paying online, you are risking identity theft and other security issues.

Make sure you understand how you will be protected no matter what payment system you decide to use.

The Freedom Debt Relief newsletter is published by The Premier Institute for Financial Freedom. Photos courtesy of Shutterstock.com and iStock.com. While articles in this newsletter are factual and accurate, they are not intended to replace the advice of professional financial, accounting, and/or legal advisers. As with all decisions regarding your finances, the advice, techniques, ideas and suggestions offered herein should be followed under the supervision of the appropriate competent professional.

*Visit us on Facebook,
YouTube, Twitter, and Google+.*



We post free tips, tools, and videos on our social profiles everyday! Feel free to join the conversations between our employees and clients as we share the latest information on debt help and consumer finance.



FB/FreedomDebtRelief



+FreedomDebtRelief



@freedomfamily



Freedomdebtrelieftv

1875 South Grant Street • Suite 400 • San Mateo, CA 94402 • Phone: (800) 655-6303 • FAX: (650) 897-8800