



# Activities to Make the Family Chore Project Succeed for **7-11-year-olds**

## Step 1

### Create a Chore Chart and Plan a Regular Check-in

Use this time to discuss with your child which chores he/she completed and check them off on the Chore Chart. As your child becomes more familiar with this process, empower him/her to check off completed chores on the Chore Chart independently, which will help your child practice tracking his/her own progress.

- During these check-ins, focus your praise on the strategies your child used to complete a chore or the number of times he/she tried without giving up.
- Be sure to highlight how the chores helped the family to focus on children's development of a sense of family responsibility.
- These check-ins will also give you the opportunity to explore why your child may not have done some or any chores on a particular day.
- Use the total rows on the Chore chart to allow extra addition practice.
- Use colors or symbols to show the difference between daily and weekly chores.
- Encourage your child to share the truth in the notes section if they forgot a chore to help foster ownership, honesty, and accountability.
- Use the sample Chore Chart below as a guide.



## Sample Chore Chart



= Daily Chore



= Weekly Chore

Chore	Agreed-upon Chore Income Amount	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	Notes
Make the Bed  	\$1.00								Slept at Grandma's house so didn't have to make bed on Saturday
Clean up toys  	\$1.00								Didn't choose to clean up Legos on Friday
Transfer (\$1.00), Fold (\$3.00) & Put Away Laundry (\$1.00)  	\$5.00								
Set the table  	\$1.00								Had dinner on the way home from gymnastics on Wednesday
Water the plants x2  	\$0.50								
Daily Total \$ Earned from Completed Chores		\$8.00	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$2.00	\$2.00	Total = \$24.00
Daily Possible \$ Earnings Based on Chores		\$8.00	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.00	Total = \$25.00

## Blank Chore Chart



= Daily Chore



= Weekly Chore

Chore	Agreed-upon Chore Income Amount	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	Notes
Daily Total \$ Earned from Completed Chores									Total =
Daily Possible \$ Earnings Based on Chores									Total =

## Step 2

### Prepare for Payday

Be prepared for the conversations that may come up when Payday arrives. The regular check-ins and chore chart totals should make Payday less surprising for you and your child, but the conversations that arise can have an important impact on your child's success with the Family Chore Project, so it's good to be prepared to explain the direct connection between chores (hard work) and the chore income (earning money). Use the chore chart to guide all conversations to highlight the importance of record-keeping and looking at data.

- If your child met expectations, praise your child by naming the specific strategies he/she did to achieve this goal to make your child aware that those strategies were effective and reinforce the idea that he/she should keep doing them in order to continue earning the full chore income.
  - Reinforcement examples:
    - ◆ “I noticed how you checked the chore chart after school each day to make sure you weren’t forgetting any chores that were on your list.”
    - ◆ “It was really great how you came to set the table as soon as you saw me start cooking dinner, so I never had to remind you.”
    - ◆ “I noticed how caring you were when you helped your little brother tie his shoes when he started to cry. You were patient and he was very happy to have your help!”
  - Remember, to earn the full income, chores don’t have to be done perfectly, but your child must show considerable effort toward completing all agreed-upon chores each day.



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- If you find that your child went above and beyond expectations that week, consider giving a bonus.
  - A bonus could be extra income, a treat that is motivating to your child, or even a chore pass that gives your child one day off from chores with pay.
- If you find that your child has not earned the full chore income, be prepared to explain calmly and clearly that the consequences for not completing the agreed-upon chores is earning less income.
  - Use positive reinforcement to help your child focus on what went well (“You earned half the income this week, and I know you can earn even more next week!”).
    - ♦ Talk about what went well and how that can be replicated for other chores or on other days to help your child reach the full chore income next week. Reference the chore chart during this discussion, focusing on chores that were completed consistently without any issues.
    - ♦ Talk about what went wrong too. Use the chore chart as evidence to show the lower pay (“You lost your chance for a dollar when you refused to pick up your Legos.”).
      - ♦ Offer suggestions for how to work through problems that got in the way, so your child can be successful with all chores next week (“Remember when you refused to pick up those Legos because you were really tired? Well, what could you do differently next time? Could you pick them up right after you play with them instead of waiting until before bed? Is that a reasonable fix for you? Do you have any other ideas? Let’s make a plan together.”).
  - If your child is refusing to do chores, chore income should be reduced accordingly. However, carefully consider why your child is not earning the full income.
    - ♦ Thank your child for being honest in his/her notes when a chore was not completed (example: he/she decided not to clean up Legos).
    - ♦ Consider revisiting the chores chosen to see if changing the required chores solves the problem.
    - ♦ Make sure to ask your child to share his/her perspective on why the chore income was not earned. What could be changed to help him/her find success?
    - ♦ Use the lessons section to find ways to motivate your child and remind him/her of the benefits of earning income.

## Step 3

### Explore the Three Types of Savings

By practicing saving money, rather than spending it all right away, children develop the self-control required for waiting to get a reward.

- Practicing this skill with money can help kids transfer it to other contexts, like school and home life.
- A future version of your saving-savvy child just might think: “I should do my homework first, then I’ll play.”
- Be sure to share the differences between short-term and long-term savings. They are both important to save for, but have very different purposes. See the “Lessons in Budgeting” section for support around conversations.



### ▪ Emergency:

- ♦ Children should save here until they have a full month's income saved, just in case something happens like getting sick and not being able to do chores.

### ▪ Short-term:

- ♦ Your child can (but doesn't have to) spend the money saved here.
- ♦ Will likely be used within the next few months.
- ♦ Accessed often.
- ♦ Examples: ice cream with friends, new phone app, sparkly bow, basketball shoes.

### ▪ Long-term:

- ♦ Your child will keep adding to this over time to help with long-term goals.
- ♦ Kept in the account for years and years.
- ♦ Rarely accessed.
- ♦ Examples: saving for college, saving for retirement, future house, law school.

- As you create the jars with your child, encourage goal-setting. For each of the three saving options, what does the child want to set as goals?
  - ♦ Talk about what a realistic goal is based on the chore income. Discuss a timeline for the goal and list concrete action steps.
    - ♦ For example, the goal of a video game system is unrealistic after a month of a weekly chore income of \$20.
  - ♦ Consider having your child draw (or find digital images to print out) the items or goals on the jars, including estimates of the prices. This captures a nice visual for the goals in each of the savings areas and encourages your child to estimate and use number comparison skills.
    - ♦ For example, new sports jersey = \$60 (short term), college = \$100,000 (long term)
- Consider giving incentives to encourage your child to save for the future by matching or doubling.
  - ♦ Make sure your child understands that this applies to long-term savings.
  - ♦ Clearly explain whether you will match or double the funds and be consistent.
    - ♦ For example, if your child put \$3 into the long-term savings jar and you're doubling, you would put \$6 into that jar.

## Step 4

### Keep Financial Records

After each payday, encourage your child to record his/her chore income earnings on the Bank Statement sheet for each jar.

- Explain that chore income on payday is a deposit into the bank account as it adds to their balance.
- Share that withdrawals and payments are subtracted from the balance and happen when money is taken out for savings accounts, expenses, etc.
- Teach that balance = how much money is in the account. Explicitly show how to calculate the balance based on credit or payment.
  - Example: My balance was \$12.00, but when I bought a new soccer ball, my balance decreased. I subtracted the cost of the soccer ball of \$6 from the \$12.00 balance. My new balance is \$6.00.
  - Example: The current balance in my long-term savings is \$24.00. I received \$3.00 of chore income this week that goes toward this account. Since I'm gaining funds, I will find the sum of  $\$24.00 + \$3.00$  to get a new balance of \$27.00.
- Draw attention to the fact that recording the date and keeping records of income and expenses (money spent) are important skills that make money organization easier.
- Consider putting the bank statements underneath the respective jar so everything stays organized. You could also color-code the jars and bank statement sheets (example: long-term savings jar is blue – and so is the bank statement sheet).

Use the sample Bank Statement Sheets below as a guide for the saving jars:



Sample Bank Statement Sheets for each Saving Jar

EMERGENCY SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance
	11/24/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$3.00		\$3.00
	12/5/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$3.00		\$6.00
	12/10/20	Shawn/Mom	Chore \$ when Sick		\$2.50	\$3.50
SHORT-TERM SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance
	11/24/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$10.00		\$10.00
	12/5/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$10.00		\$20.00
	12/7/20	Shawn/Target	Skateboard Keychain		\$6.00	\$14.00
LONG-TERM SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance
	11/24/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$4.00		\$4.00
	12/5/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$4.00		\$8.00
	12/9/20	Shawn/Store	Ice Cream		\$3.50	\$10.50
SHARING SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance
	11/24/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$2.00		\$2.00
	12/5/20	Mom/Shawn	Chore Income	\$2.00		\$4.00
	12/7/20	Shawn/Charity	Wacky Wednesday Student Council School Dress-up Day		\$0.50	\$3.50

## Blank Statement Sheets

EMERGENCY SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance

SHORT-TERM SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance

LONG-TERM SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance

SHARING SAVINGS	Date	\$ From/To	Notes	Deposit/ Credit (+)	Withdrawal/ Payment (-)	Balance

## Step 5

### Create a Budget

Spending the time to create a budget with your child will help you model the thinking that goes into financial decision-making. It will also set clear expectations for what children should be doing with their chore income, giving them a target for their spending.

- To help your child understand that some portion of income must go to pay for things he/she needs, it is important to structure your child's budget to include a contribution to the household expenses. List out several real-life line items, such as electricity, water, phone, transportation, food, rent/mortgage, etc., to help prepare children to understand exactly what they will be expected to pay for later in life.
- You might also want to consider encouraging your child to set aside some money for "sharing" that can be used for charitable giving, such as choosing a charity they believe in or giving a gift to a local cause/friend in need. For example, they might donate a toy to a holiday toy drive, or buy large-print books or new Bingo cards to give to a senior center.
- Use the sample budget shown below to help children decide how much money to allocate to each of the savings jars and how much to pay you for their household contribution.



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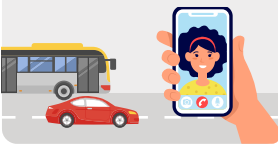








- Walk through and model the different math computations involved when filling out the budget. It is important to include the fraction and visual representation for all children in this age range. However, decide based on your child's age and comfort with math concepts whether or not you will include the decimal and percent columns. Even if your child does not fully understand these mathematical concepts, seeing it presented in the budget can be good exposure to help your child build a foundation for understanding these concepts.
  - Fraction: Put the total income underneath the fraction line (as the “denominator”) and how much \$ is going to this line item above the fraction line (the “numerator”).
  - \$1.00 for the expense of the total possible chore income of \$25.00 =  $1/25$
  - Decimal: Use a calculator to divide the top number of the fraction by the bottom number.
    - ♦  $1/25 = 1 \div 25 = .04$
  - Percent: Multiply the decimal value by 100 and add the % sign.
    - ♦  $.04 \times 100 = 4\%$
  - Visual Representation: Use counters or draw dots to represent the fraction here. The number on top or the specific amount should be one color; and the total remaining counters for possible chore income will be another color.
  - Subtotal: Add up each respective column to find the subtotal for that section.













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### Sample Budget

Total Possible Chore Income: \$25.00

Expenses	Amount	Chore Income Representations				Notes
		Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	
<b>Food/ Electricity/ Water</b> 	\$1.00	1/25	.04	4%		
<b>Phone/ Transportation</b> 	\$1.00	1/25	.04	4%		
<b>Rent/Mortgage</b> (divide monthly expense by 4 for weekly amount) 	\$3.00	3/25	.12	12%		Monthly Expense = \$12.00
<b>Pet Supplies</b> 	\$1.00	1/25	.04	4%		
<b>Internet &amp; TV Package</b> 	\$1.00	1/25	.04	4%		
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	\$7.00	7/25	.28	28%		






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Savings	Amount	Chore Income Representations				Notes
		Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	
<b>Emergency Savings</b> 	\$3.00	$\frac{3}{25}$	.12	12%		
<b>Long-term Savings</b> 	\$3.00	$\frac{3}{25}$	.12	12%		
<b>Short-term Savings</b> 	\$10.00	$\frac{10}{25}$	.4	40%		(This is the money your child CAN spend, but doesn't HAVE to!) Really want new soccer game
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	\$16.00	$\frac{16}{25}$	.64	64%		
Giving	Amount	Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	Notes
<b>Sharing</b> 	\$2.00	$\frac{2}{25}$	.08	8%		School Bake Sale Donation
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	\$2.00	$\frac{2}{25}$	.08	8%		





## Activities to Make the Family Chore Project Succeed for 7-11-year-olds

### Blank Budget

Total Possible Chore Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Expenses	Amount	Chore Income Representations				Notes
		Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	
<b>Food/ Electricity/ Water</b> 						
<b>Phone/ Transportation</b> 						
<b>Rent/Mortgage</b> (divide monthly expense by 4 for weekly amount) 						
<b>Pet Supplies</b> 						
<b>Internet &amp; TV Package</b> 						
<b>Sub-Total:</b>						

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Savings	Amount	Chore Income Representations				Notes
		Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	
<b>Emergency Savings</b> 						
<b>Long-term Savings</b> 						
<b>Short-term Savings</b> 						
<b>Sub-Total:</b>						
Giving	Amount	Fraction	Decimal	Percent	Visual Representation	Notes
<b>Sharing</b> 						
<b>Sub-Total:</b>						

## Step 6

## Introduce Entrepreneurial Activities

At some point, it's likely that your child will want to spend more money than he/she has and can't wait long enough to save the desired quantity. Rather than just giving children the money, encourage them to think of entrepreneurial ideas for how to earn the money. If your child needs inspiration, share some ideas below with him/her; but encourage your child to make this project about something he/she is sincerely motivated to work on. If you really do want to contribute to the purchase, consider matching whatever funds your child raises through entrepreneurial work!

### Entrepreneurial Activities

- ☐ Lemonade or hot chocolate stand
- ☐ Selling a baked good
- ☐ Making and selling friendship bracelets, slime, holiday ornaments, or another craft
- ☐ Growing and selling vegetables or flowers from their garden
- ☐ Creating greeting or holiday cards
- ☐ Teaching classes to other kids on things they have learned/do really well (how to make a craft, cooking class for healthy snacks or lunches, learning dance moves, etc.)
- ☐ Babysitting siblings, neighbors, or friends
- ☐ Pet sitting
- ☐ Garage sale (with adult permission and assistance)

### Entrepreneurial Activities that Give Back

- ☐ Making a craft in exchange for donations to the local food bank
- ☐ Singing holiday songs for donations to the local senior center
- ☐ Making a pledge that for every new toy he/she gets, he/she will donate an old toy
- ☐ Picking up recycled materials in public places – in some locations, turning in aluminum cans is worth money
- ☐ 3D printing items that help others