



**BCDI**

Black Child  
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ATLANTA

# FINANCIAL LITERACY

JANUARY 2025



## ACTIVITY GUIDE

*ADULTS & CHILDREN*

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## Financial Literacy Family Activity Guide

*Financial literacy is a fundamental life skill that empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their money and build a secure financial future. This comprehensive activity guide fosters financial understanding and healthy money habits for adults and children.*

*For adults, these activities provide practical tools and strategies to enhance financial management skills, from basic budgeting to investment planning. Each activity is structured to build confidence and competence in handling personal finances while creating sustainable habits that lead to long-term financial well-being.*

*We've developed age-appropriate activities for children ages 3-8 that make learning about money fun and engaging. Early exposure to financial concepts helps children develop a positive relationship with money and builds a foundation for responsible financial decision-making. These activities transform abstract financial concepts into tangible learning experiences through play, creativity, and family involvement.*

*Whether you're an adult looking to strengthen your financial skills or a parent/guardian wanting to teach children about money, this guide offers structured activities that can be adapted to your specific needs and circumstances.*

### ADULTS

- 1) Monthly Budget Tracking Worksheet
- 2) Financial Goal Setting Vision Board
- 3) Debt Reduction Strategy Workshop
- 4) Investment Education Simulation
- 5) No-Spend Challenge

### CHILDREN

- 1) Piggy Bank Savings Challenge
- 2) Grocery Store Math Game
- 3) Needs vs. Wants Sorting
- 4) Coin Recognition and Counting
- 5) Entrepreneurship Lemonade Stand Simulation
- 6) Family Budget Story Time

# Activities for Adults #1

## Monthly Budget Tracking Worksheet

**Goals:** Create a comprehensive understanding of personal income and expenses to improve financial awareness and decision-making.

### Materials:

- Spreadsheet (digital or paper)-[VIDEO](#), Sample-[TEMPLATE](#) we do not endorse these products but provide them as a resource)
- Bank statements
- Calculator
- Different colored highlighters or pens

### Instructions:

1. Gather all financial documents for the past month, including:
  - Bank statements
  - Credit card statements
  - Receipts
  - Pay stubs
2. Create a spreadsheet with categories:
  - Income sources
  - Fixed expenses (rent/mortgage, utilities, insurance)
  - Variable expenses (groceries, dining out, entertainment)
  - Savings and investments
3. Record every single transaction for the month
4. Color-code expenses:
  - Green: Essential expenses
  - Yellow: Discretionary spending
  - Red: Unnecessary purchases
5. Calculate total spending in each category
6. Identify areas for potential savings
7. Set specific reduction goals for next month

# Activities for Adults #2

## Financial Goal Setting Vision Board

**Goals:** Visualize and motivate long-term financial objectives to create a clear path toward financial success.

### Materials:

- Large poster board
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Markers
- Personal financial documents
- Printed images from the internet

### Instructions:

1. Reflect on short-term and long-term financial goals:
  - Emergency fund
  - Debt reduction
  - Homeownership
  - Retirement savings
  - Travel
2. Find images and words that represent these goals
3. Arrange and glue images on the board
4. Write specific, measurable financial targets
5. Place the vision board in a prominent location
6. Review and update quarterly

# Activities for Adults #3

## Debt Reduction Strategy Workshop

**Goals:** Develop a systematic approach to eliminating and managing personal debt.

### Materials:

- Notebook
- Pen
- Calculator
- Credit report
- List of all debts
- Colored markers

### Instructions:

1. Gather all debt information:
  - Credit card balances
  - Personal loans
  - Student loans
  - Car loans
  - Medical bills
2. Create a comprehensive debt inventory:
  - Total amount owed
  - Interest rates
  - Minimum monthly payments
3. Choose a debt reduction strategy:
  - Snowball method (paying smallest debts first)
  - Avalanche method (paying highest interest debts first)
4. Create a visual debt repayment chart
5. Set up automatic payments
6. Identify potential areas to increase debt payment
7. Celebrate each debt milestone

# Activities for Adults #4

## Investment Education Simulation

**Goals:** Learn investment basics and practice strategic financial decision-making without financial risk.

### Materials:

- Computer or smartphone
- Free investment simulation app or website
- Notebook
- Pen
- Investment magazines or online resources

### Instructions:

1. Choose a free investment simulation platform (search the internet and/or watch YouTube videos to help you. Also, talk to family and friends who may already be investing)
2. Create a virtual investment portfolio
3. Set a hypothetical budget (e.g., \$10,000)
4. Research different investment options:
  - Stocks
  - Mutual funds
  - ETFs
  - Bonds
5. Diversify virtual investments
6. Track portfolio performance weekly
7. Analyze decision-making and market trends
8. Compare performance with actual market indexes
9. Take notes on learning insights

# Activities for Adults #5

## No-Spend Challenge

**Goals:** Develop mindful spending habits and increase savings by reducing unnecessary expenses.

### Materials:

- Expense tracking app or notebook
- Envelope or digital savings account
- Calendar
- Motivational rewards

### Instructions:

1. Choose a challenge duration (1 week to 1 month)
2. Define clear rules:
  - No dining out
  - No impulse purchases
  - Only essential spending
3. Create a tracking system
4. Move saved money directly to savings
5. Find free alternative activities
6. Reflect on spending triggers
7. Calculate the total money saved
8. Reward yourself with a portion of your savings or another motivating reward

# Activities for Children #1

## Piggy Bank Savings Challenge

**Goals:** Introduce the concept of saving money and delaying gratification.

### Materials:

- Clear piggy bank or jar
- Stickers
- Coins
- Savings chart

### Instructions:

1. Decorate the piggy bank together
2. Create a colorful savings chart
3. Explain that saving means keeping money for later
4. Give the child small coins to save
5. Let them place coins in the bank
6. Use stickers to track progress
7. Celebrate when they fill a section of the chart



# Activities for Children #2

## Grocery Store Math Game

**Goals:** Develop basic counting skills and understanding of money's value.

### Materials:

- Play money
- Toy cash register (optional)
- Grocery store ads
- Notebook
- Pencil

### Instructions:

1. Use grocery ads to create a pretend shopping list
2. Give child play money
3. Help them "buy" items by counting coins
4. Practice adding prices
5. Discuss making choices within a budget
6. Take turns being the shopper and cashier

# Activities for Children #3

## Needs vs. Wants Sorting

**Goals:** Help children differentiate between essential purchases and discretionary spending.

### Materials:

- Magazine cutouts
- Posterboard
- Glue
- Scissors

### Instructions:

1. Cut out images from magazines
2. Create two columns: "Needs" and "Wants"
3. Explain the difference:
  - Needs: Food, shelter, clothing
  - Wants: Toys, extra treats
4. Sort images together
5. Discuss why some items are needs and others are wants
6. Make it a fun sorting game

# Activities for Children #4

## Coin Recognition and Counting

**Goals:** Teach children to recognize different coins and their values.

### Materials:

- Assorted coins
- Sorting tray or muffin tin
- Coin value chart
- Notebook
- Pencil

### Instructions:

1. Spread out different coins
2. Help the child identify each coin
3. Sort coins by type
4. Practice counting coin values
5. Make a simple chart showing coin values
6. Play matching games
7. Reward learning with a small treat or sticker

# Activities for Children #5

## Entrepreneurship Lemonade Stand Simulation

**Goals:** Introduce basic business and financial concepts through a fun, interactive activity.

### Materials:

- Large cardboard box or table
- Posterboard
- Markers
- Toy cash register
- Plastic cups
- Pretend lemonade ingredients
- Apron
- Price tags

### Instructions:

1. Help the child design a lemonade stand
2. Create price tags for "products"
3. Discuss business concepts:
  - Cost of ingredients
  - Selling price
  - Profit
4. Role-play customer interactions
5. Use play money for transactions
6. Count "earnings" together
7. Talk about saving some "money"

# Activities for Children #6

## Family Budget Story Time

**Goals:** Create a narrative approach to understanding family financial decisions.

### Materials:

- Storybook or homemade book
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Stickers
- Imagination

### Instructions:

1. Create a simple storybook about a family's money journey
2. Include characters making financial choices
3. Discuss saving, sharing, and spending
4. Use colorful illustrations
5. Make characters save for a special goal
6. Read together regularly
7. Encourage the child to create their own money stories

## Tips for Parents and Guardians

- **Make financial activities fun and age-appropriate**
- **Use positive, encouraging language**
- **Be a role model in financial behaviors**
- **Adjust activities to the child's understanding**
- **Celebrate small achievements**

## Extension Activities for Children's Activities

[Activities 1-3](#)

[Activities 4-6](#)

## 1) Piggy Bank Savings Challenge

**Goals:** Translate in-home saving practice to real-world savings experiences.

### Extension Ideas:

- Open a child's first savings account
- Help child deposit saved coins
- Discuss bank process and savings interest
- Compare piggy bank savings to bank savings

## 2) Grocery Store Math Game

**Goals:** Apply in-home learning to real grocery shopping experiences.

### Extension Ideas:

- Bring child grocery shopping
- Give them a calculator or let them use a phone calculator
- Have them add up grocery items as you shop
- Compare prices of similar items
- Use store coupons together and calculate savings
- Let the child help find the best deal

## 3) Needs vs. Wants Sorting Activity

**Goals:** Reinforce understanding of financial choices in real-world scenarios.

### Extension Ideas:

- Create a small shopping budget for the child
- Let them choose items within budget at the store
- Discuss trade-offs between wants and needs
- Practice making choices that fit budget constraints

## 4) Coin Recognition and Counting

**Goals:** Practice coin recognition and counting in everyday situations.

**Extension Ideas:**

- Play the "coin identification" game during cash transactions
- Let child count change at the store
- Give children the opportunity to pay for small purchases
- Practice making exact change

## 5) Entrepreneurship Lemonade Stand Simulation

**Goals:** Translate pretend business skills to real-world entrepreneurship.

**Extension Ideas:**

- Help children run actual small neighborhood stand
- Calculate real costs and potential profits
- Discuss business basics like pricing and expenses
- Donate or save earned money together

## 6) Family Budget Story Time

**Goals:** Connect storytelling to real family financial discussions.

**Extension Ideas:**

- Have age-appropriate discussions about family finances
- Show the child a simple bill-paying process
- Explain basic concepts like earning, spending, saving
- Involve child in minor financial decisions



# Conclusion

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*Financial literacy is a lifelong journey that builds stronger, more confident decision-makers at any age. Adults can develop practical money management skills through these activities while children build a foundation for understanding financial concepts. The key to success lies in consistent practice, open family discussions about money, and patience with the learning process.*

*Remember to start with basic concepts and gradually increase complexity as skills and confidence grow. Each completed activity, whether by an adult or child, is a step toward greater financial empowerment. By adapting these activities to your specific needs and circumstances, you can create meaningful learning experiences contributing to long-term economic well-being.*

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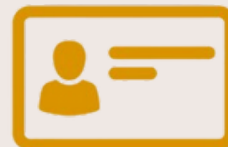
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