




Why Budget?

Make Your Allowance Work For You

Making a budget can be hard, but when you make a practical budget and stick to it, you'll find you have all the money you need for the important things you really want and need.

 When you make a budget and stick to it, you are less likely to squander your money on impulse purchases and can spend it instead on the things that you really want.

 You can stay out of debt or get out of the debt you're already in if you know how much money you have for your expenses and are able to pay your bills on time.

 While it may feel at first like budgeting is locking you and your money up, you will actually have more freedom when you are financially savvy.

Make Your Budget

First, add up your monthly allowance and other income, like gifts or money from a job:

+ _____

Next, add up your monthly expenses. An expense is money that you spend on something. Use the worksheet on the back of this page to get a general idea of your total expenses.

- _____

Then, subtract your expenses from your income.

= _____

Look at your final number. Is it positive or negative?



If this number is positive, that means you have extra money left over that you can put towards a savings goal like a car, new iPod, or a trip!



If this number is negative, you may need to rethink a few of your expenses. Are you spending too much money on something?



If you simply can't lower any of your expenses, then think about ways that you could make more money. You could mow lawns, take care of your neighbor's pets, or start your own business!



Budgeting Your Needs and Wants

	Need?	Want?	How Much Money Can You Budget?
Groceries:	_____	_____	_____
Fast Food:	_____	_____	_____
Clothing:	_____	_____	_____
Cell Phone:	_____	_____	_____
Gifts for Others:	_____	_____	_____
CDs:	_____	_____	_____
Magazines:	_____	_____	_____
Home & Rent:	_____	_____	_____
School Supplies:	_____	_____	_____
Vacations:	_____	_____	_____
Entertainment:	_____	_____	_____
Internet:	_____	_____	_____
Haircut:	_____	_____	_____
Sports:	_____	_____	_____
Transportation:	_____	_____	_____
Manicures	_____	_____	_____
Charity:	_____	_____	_____
Other:	_____	_____	_____

? *Is this number less than your total allowance or income? How can you change your budget to be able to afford what you need and want?*

Total Expenses:
