



# Smart Spending



As you journey through life, it's important to have maps. A budget is a map that helps you plan the use of your money. Budgeting and knowing how to handle money is one of the most important skills needed to reach your goals in life.

To make a budget, list your income—how much you earn or have. Then list what you think you'll buy—your planned expenses. Make sure your expenses aren't more than your income.

But money isn't *just* for spending. It's important

to save, as well as give to charity. Sharing money helps those in need and can make you feel good, too. One idea is to divide your money in thirds, for spending, saving, and sharing. If you have \$12, you could save \$4, give \$4 to charity, and still have \$4 to spend.

After planning your budget, do your best to stay on track with it, just like you'd check a map on a trip. Using money wisely can make the difference between getting lost in a jungle or successfully arriving at your destination.

Create your monthly budget by writing in your income, savings, and expenses.

\_\_\_\_\_'s Budget for the Month of \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name Month and Year

MONTHLY INCOME	Amount
Weekly allowance earned	\$ x 4 weeks = \$
Gifts received (From birthdays or special occasions)	\$
Other (Such as doing extra chores. Write below.)	
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$

MONTHLY SAVINGS and EXPENSES	Amount
Weekly savings (Put in jar or savings account.) What are some special things you'd like to save up for?	\$ x 4 weeks = \$
Donations to charity	\$
Expenses (Such as books, clothes, or movies. Write below.)	
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>Total Savings and Expenses</b>	\$

MONTHLY TOTALS (Use numbers from above.)	Amount
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$
Total Savings and Expenses	- \$
How much is left over? (Consider putting the remainder in your savings account or giving more to charity.)	=