



Recreational spending

Being responsible with money does not mean that children can't have fun. There are plenty of ways to have a good time with friends while still learning about smart money management.

★ MOVIE NIGHT

Encourage your child to plan an at-home movie night with a few friends. With just a bit of planning, it can be a great alternative to going out to the theatre.

Help your child do a cost comparison. For example:

Four friends go to the theatre	
Tickets	\$51.80
Popcorn	\$20.00
Pop	\$20.00
Tax	\$13.77
Total	\$105.57
Four friends watch a movie at home	
Netflix monthly subscription	\$8.99
Microwave Popcorn	\$5.00
Pop	\$5.00
Tax	\$2.85
Total	\$21.84

Let your child and their friends pick out a movie and take them out to buy treats. If everyone chips in, they can get a movie, popcorn and pop for far less than it would cost to go to the theatre.

★ BE A STAR

Help your child and their friends organize their own neighbourhood talent show.

★ SPA DAY

A spa party is easy to organize. Children can provide their own supplies or borrow from family members. Or the group can chip in to purchase polish, facial masques or other spa products.

★ CLOTHES CONNECTIONS – AND MORE

Help your child organize a clothing exchange with friends. Trading will let them get something that's new to them without spending any money. If you are hosting the event, talk to the other parents and explain the concept. Ask them to send their children along with clothes, shoes and accessories they no longer wear, but are still clean and in good condition.

Children will receive a ticket for each garment they bring. They can use the tickets to buy items at the exchange. If several people want a particular item, a draw can be held. Swap parties don't have to be limited to clothes! You can also set up a swap for games, books, magazines, toys and collectibles.



★ PLAN A PICNIC

Instead of hanging out at the mall food court or a fast food restaurant, help your child and their friends prepare a picnic to enjoy in the local park. Not only will they save money, they'll have fun planning and preparing for the outing. The group can chip in to purchase sandwich fixings, pickles, nuts, fruit and healthy treats, and you can assist by supervising the preparations. If it is too cold outside to do a picnic, have one at home in your rec room.