Parents' Lesson 2: Planning Your Spending

Objectives

- O In Lesson 2, parents will learn:
 - What a spending plan is and how it can help you manage your money
 - How to create and use a spending plan

Lesson Outline

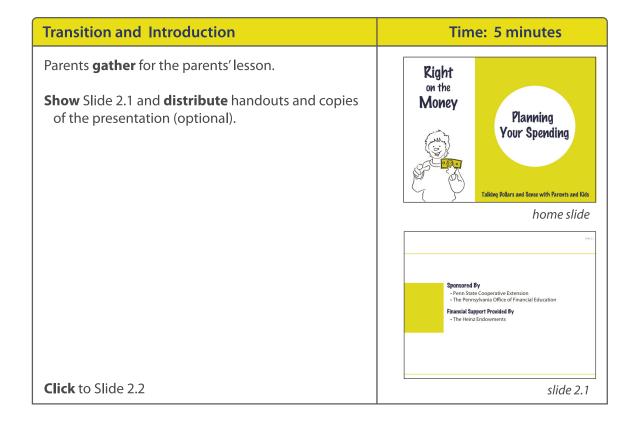
O This lesson will take a total of 60 minutes. Below is an outline of the major topics that are covered and a suggested amount of time to spend on each. To help you get through all of the material in the time allotted, write the estimated start time for each section in the left column and in the leader's notes.

Start Time	Section	Time Allotted
Transition and Introduction		5 minutes
	Introduction	
	Session #1 Challenge	
	Objectives	
What Is a Spending Plan?		15 minutes
	Definition	
	Benefits	
	Financial Goals	
Creating a Spending Plan		25 minutes
	Step One: Identifying Goals	
	Step Two: Identifying Sources of Income	

Start Time	Section	Time Allotted	
Creating a Spending Plan			
	Step Three: Identifying Expenses		
	Step Four: Comparing Income and Expenses		
	Step Five: Drafting the Plan		
	Step Six: Using, Reviewing and Adjusting the Plan		
Parents' Challenge		5 minutes	
	Conversation Starters		
	Everyday Ways		
	Tracking Spending		
	Draft or Review Spending Plan		
Wrap Up		Time Remaining	
	Session Evaluation		
	Preview Next Session		
	Closing and Dismissal to Pick Up Children		

Presentation and Leader's Notes

- O The following is a step-by-step guide to Lesson 2, complete with snapshots of the various slides/ visuals and handouts to be used. Familiarize yourself with the notes and the content in advance, but do not feel that you have to read the scripts verbatim. They are intended to guide instruction but not replace your good judgment as a presenter/teacher.
- O Keep in mind throughout the program that individuals and groups have different experiences and values when it comes to money. Some people may want to share a lot of personal information while others may not want to divulge anything. Respect these points of view and monitor the group to be sure that you are meeting their needs. Also, be careful not to impose your own values upon the participants.
- O Note: Presentation slides are provided on the enclosed disk and are available online at www.moneysbestfriend.com. The notes below reference the slide numbers and point out when to "click" to the next slide. If a laptop and projector are not available, overheads of the slides work just as well. You may also want to note the actual time in the margin (e.g., 7:15) where you hope to be at certain points during the lesson. This will help you to monitor your progress and adjust as necessary.



Transition and Introduction

Showing Slide 2.2, introduce lesson

In this session of *Right on the Money*, the topic is Planning Your Spending. Before we start, let's recap last session's topic on Planning to Succeed Financially.

Last time, we talked about how you influence the money knowledge, skills and attitudes of your children, as well as organizing and keeping family records. Remember that we ended with a challenge for you to take action.



slide 2.2

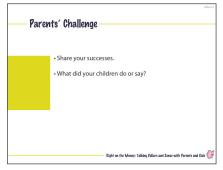
Click to Slide 2.3

Showing Slide 2.3, **ask** the parents to share any successes or difficulties since the last session. Use one or two of the following questions to help facilitate participation.

(Allow answers from two or three people.)

- Did your child say anything about the *Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money* story?
- Were you able to use any of the conversation starters with your child?
- Did you have any teachable moments related to money issues arise?
- Was there anything specific that you did with your child to improve his or her knowledge or attitude about money?
- What have you done since the last class regarding record keeping?

Compliment parents on their efforts.



slide 2.3

Transition and Introduction Showing Slide 2.4, **explain** Overview: Planning Your Spending In today's lesson we will talk about: · What a spending plan is How a spending plan can help you control your money • What a spending plan is. How to create a simple spending plan • How a spending plan can help you control your money. • How to create a simple spending plan. Click to Slide 2.5 slide 2.4 What is a Spending Plan? Time: 15 minutes **Showing** Slide 2.5, **explain** Spending Plan A spending plan is just that – a plan for spending money. "Spending plan" sounds more positive to some A spending plan is simply a guide or outline for how to spend your money. than the word "budget" which, like the word "diet," is · A spending plan tells your money where to go often associated with denial and deprivation. A instead of you wondering where it went spending plan is a "good thing" because it allows you to tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went. **Ask** for a show of hands of how many parents slide 2.5 have a spending plan? **Ask** those who have a spending plan to talk about their plan. Use the following questions to help facilitate participation. (Allow answers from two or three people.) • Is your plan a mental or written plan? How and why did you create it? How long did it take you to create it? • Have you made adjustments since you started

Thank the parents who shared their experiences.

using the plan?

What is a Spending Plan?		
Ask parents to brainstorm or share some benefits of using a spending plan. Write parents' responses on a flip chart or board.		
Click to Slide 2.6		
Showing Slide 2.6, restate the responses and explain any of the following that were not mentioned by the parents.	Benefits of Spending Plans	
A spending plan can help you:	A spending plan can help you: Put aside money for savings goals Prepare for regular expenses Prepare for unexpected expenses Control how you spend money Reduce stress and increase your confidence Provide an excuse to calm the "gimmies"	
 Put aside money for savings goals. 		
 Prepare for regular expenses such as food, housing, car insurance, gas, etc. 		
 Prepare for unexpected expenses or emergencies such as a flat tire, broken washer, etc. 		
 Control how you spend money. With a written plan, you can make a conscious and informed choice of where to spend money. 		
 Increase your confidence and reduce family stress. Knowing that you are prepared to meet your expenses can allow you to focus your energies on other important family matters. 		
 Provide ready-made reasons for your financial decisions. A spending plan is a good "stop sign" for the "gimmies" or things that are not directly related to the agreed upon goals. 		
Click to Slide 2.7		
Showing Slide 2.7, explain		
Before we discuss developing a spending plan, let's talk about what guides our spending.		
No one has an unlimited supply of money so we must make choices or spend with a purpose or goal in mind.		

What is a Spending Plan?

We all have some basic choices to make, such as food, clothing and shelter. However, you may want something specific or beyond the basic need. For example, let's say I want to buy a house in five years. With that in mind, I have to take steps, during the next five years, in order to accumulate enough money to reach this goal. So, it is clear that the goal of buying a house will help or guide me to spend money in ways to achieve it.

Refer to Handout 2.1: Financial Goal Worksheet.

We will talk in depth about establishing financial goals in the next session. For now, take a few minutes to think about and write down some personal financial goals you may have. They can be short-term (one year), mid-term (two to five years) or long-term goals (more than five years). They don't have to be savings goals. For example, you may have the goal to pay off some credit card debt or other outstanding bills.

(Give parents 3-4 minutes to write down their goals.)

Ask for one or two parents to share their goals.

Click to Slide 2.8

Showing Slide 2.8, **explain**

In order to reach our financial goals, we need to know:

- What we already have for that goal.
- How much money it will take to reach the goal.
- Where our money is going now. In other words, what are we spending money on now?

If we do not know the answers to these three questions, we may never reach the goal.

Click to Slide 2.9

Spending Guides How do you decide where to spend your money?

slide 2.7



handout 2.1



slide 2.8

What is a Spending Plan?

Showing Slide 2.9, explain

Spending plans are simply road maps that help you achieve your financial goals. Not a single person in this room would start a *trip to a new destination* without getting a map and determining:

- the best route (especially at today's gas prices)
- 2. approximately how long it will take you to get there

If you don't do these minimal preparation steps, you could spend more money on gas than was necessary, spend more time traveling trying to find your way, and have more frustrating moments!

There are other examples of setting goals and developing a plan to reach them.

- A football coach develops a game plan prior to kick-off.
- Marketing firms develop plans for pitching products they want you to buy.

In each case, the plans are discussed and agreed upon but *might change* during the implementation phase for some reason. The original plan provides guidance and a framework for the revised plan.

Making a spending plan is not difficult, but it does take *time and commitment* to establish one. The payoff of creating and using a spending plan can be tremendous, so let's get started.

Click to Slide 2.10

Time: 15 minutes



slide 2.9

Creating a Spending Plan Time: 25 minutes Showing Slide 2.10, explain Steps to Create a Spending Plan There are six steps to creating a spending plan. 1. Identify goals 2. Identify sources of income. One key factor that should be incorporated in 3. Identify expenses 4. Compare income and expenses. all steps is to involve the entire family. Ask family 5. Draft your plan. 6. Use, review, and adjust your plan as necessary. members' opinions and thoughts on family financial goals and come to an agreement on those goals. Discuss family expenses and monthly spending habits. slide 2.10 The success of the spending plan will depend on the cooperation of all family members involved in this process. Click to Slide 2.11 **Showing** Slide 2.11, **explain Step One: Identify Goals** We covered this earlier. I think we agree that Step One: Identify Goals you must have clear goals of what you want to achieve or do with your money so you can spend accordingly. (*Note*: If spouses start to complain about disagreement on goals, gently acknowledge that slide 2.11 it is very common. DO NOT allow that conversation to continue because you will lose time and will not be able to cover the essential lesson components.) Click to Slide 2.12

Showing Slide 2.12, explain

Step Two: Identify Sources of Income

Income is one of the two key components of a spending plan. Knowing all of your resources can make the difference in achieving your goals. For most of us, the main source of money is our job. However, don't forget other important resources, such as:

- Alimony and/or child support
- Investment income (interest, dividends, capital gains and rental income)
- Other income (gifts, hobby, SSD/SSI, TANF and food stamps)

Refer to the right column on **Handout 2.2: Monthly Spending Plan Worksheet.**

Click to Slide 2.13

Showing Slide 2.13, **explain**

Step Three: Identify Expenses

Expenses are the other main component of a spending plan. If you do not have a good handle on what you are spending, you will first need to track your spending and then categorize these expenses so you can allocate the appropriate amount in your plan.



slide 2.12



handout 2.2



slide 2.13

Showing Slide 2.14, **explain**

Tracking your spending can be relatively easy. To do this, simply get a small notebook that will fit in your wallet or purse and record every penny you spend for at least a month. A couple of months is better, as spending patterns will be easier to spot.

Refer to Handout 2.3: Weekly Expenses Tracking Worksheet and Handout 2.4: Weekly Expenses Tracking Example.

You can use the worksheet to get started or choose another system that will work for you.

Show parents a small notepad that can be purchased at a discount store and carried easily in a purse or pocket.

Ask parents to share other techniques they have used to keep track of spending.

Explain

Other examples might include: a special envelope in your purse or a special box to hold receipts, bills paid and bank statements until you can record them on your spending worksheet.



slide 2.14



handout 2.3

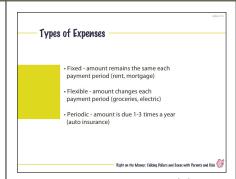


handout 2.4

Showing Slide 2.15, **explain**

After tracking your spending, you will need to add your expenses according to categories. Before we talk about the specific expense categories, it is important to understand the three basic types of expenses:

Fixed – amount due remains the same each payment period (rent, mortgage)
Flexible – amount due changes each payment period (groceries, electric)
Periodic – amount is due 1-3 times a year (auto insurance, real estate taxes, vehicle registration)



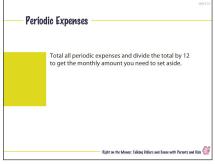
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Click to Slide 2.16

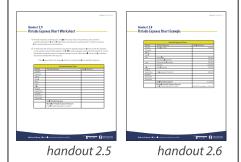
Showing Slide 2.16, **explain**

When keeping track of your expenses, don't forget to include periodic expenses. In order to plan for these, tally all periodic expenses and divide the total by 12 to get the monthly amount you need to allocate.

Refer to Handout 2.5: Periodic Expense Chart Worksheet and Handout 2.6: Periodic Expense Chart Example.



slide 2.16



Showing Slide 2.17, **explain**

Properly categorizing expenses is an important part of establishing a spending plan. After tracking your spending, total the expenses in each category and calculate a final amount of your monthly expenses.

Refer again to **Handout 2.2: Monthly Spending Plan Worksheet** to review sample categories. It is important to remind parents that their own plan may not contain all of the categories shown. Parents should tailor their plan to the categories they actually use.



slide 2.17



handout 2.2

Click to Slide 2.18

Showing Slide 2.18, **explain**

Step Four: Compare Income and Expenses

Income and expenses are the main components of any spending plan, regardless of the form used. Before drafting the plan, take a quick look at the difference between your income and expenses.

If your:

- Income is greater than your expenses, you have extra money to direct toward your financial goals.
- Income is equal to your expenses, you are breaking even. You may need to make adjustments to your spending in order to free up money to put toward your financial goals.
- Income is less than your expenses, it is clear that you must make some adjustments to your spending. Spending more than you earn is a bad habit to get into and one that is hard to break.



slide 2.18

Showing Slide 2.19, **distribute** and **refer** to "Paycheck Power Booster" Calculator.

(To order calculators, please call the Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education at 717-783-2498. Calculators are available free of charge while supplies last.)

This calculator is designed to help you find possible *spending leaks* in your budget. Spending leaks are usually small purchases that are often forgotten or overlooked when writing a spending plan.

Let's start with SIDE 1-"Where to Find the Money You Need." Let's assume that we spend \$1.50 per day on coffee and a donut. (At home, you can review the list of expenses at the bottom and circle the cost per day in column 3 for the ones that you may be making. Then simply add the amounts circled and place the total in the TOTAL box.)

Now locate the pull tab at the top. Pull up on the tab until \$1.50 (or amount from the TOTAL box) is displayed in the "LESS a DAY" box in the yellow highlighted section. The "MORE a YEAR" box displays the amount (\$548) that we would have if, instead of buying the coffee and donut, we saved that amount.

SIDE 2 of the calculator, "Add Up the Money!" displays the accumulation of \$1.50 (or TOTAL amount from SIDE 1) over several time spans.

So even if the \$1.50 for coffee and a donut each day seems harmless, when you think long-term, you can see that small amounts add up to sizeable sums. Eliminating or reducing one habit could help you achieve an important financial goal.



slide 2.19

Showing Slide 2.20, explain

Step Five: Draft Your Spending Plan

Using your income information and categorized spending, you can draft a projected plan. Remember to use a pencil so it is easy to make changes.

Refer again to Handout 2.2: Monthly Spending Plan Worksheet and explain

The projected column is where you should enter your current income and expense information. Note that this "paper" plan should balance. In other words, the amount of your expenses should equal the amount of your income. If your income is \$1,500 per month, then your expenses should equal \$1,500.

However, your initial draft may not balance. You may need to: redirect excess income to your financial goals, make choices about flexible spending allocations, or seek additional sources of income.

Last, remind yourself of your goals as you go through this exercise.

Click to Slide 2.21

Showing Slide 2.21, **explain**

Step Six: Use, Review and Adjust Plan

Now that you've created your plan, it is important to implement or use it. Remember the spending plan is your road map to reaching your goals.

It is also important to periodically review the plan to check your progress. During the first few months of using the plan, you may have to make several



slide 2.20



slide 2.21

adjustments. Once you are comfortable with the plan, reviews may only be necessary once or twice per year.

Let's take a look at a couple of examples of families using a spending plan.

Refer to Handout 2.7: Monthly Spending Plan Example – The Jones Family and Handout 2.8: Monthly Spending Plan Example – The Smith Family.

Explain

- The Jones family spent \$25 less on food than projected and put the extra \$25 into their savings account, thus the monthly budget still balanced.
- The Smith family spent \$10 and \$5 more, respectively, on their transportation and personal care costs. The \$5 less each in housing and entertainment expenses along with \$5 more in income bring their budget back into balance.
- Both families have "save first" as part of their monthly spending plan.

I encourage you to refer to these examples when drafting your own plan.



handout 2.7



handout 2.8

Parents' Challenge Time: 5 minutes Showing Slide 2.22, explain Parents' Challenge This session's challenge: · Talk to your kids about their lesson on • Try at least one of the everyday ways to talk Have at least one conversation with your child to your kids about spending money. about spending money. (Refer to **Handouts** · Review or draft a spending plan. 2.9 & 2.10, which give guidance and conversation starters.) • Using **Handout 2.11**, try at least one of the slide 2.22 everyday ways to teach kids about spending. • Start tracking your spending. Rendert 2.9 Convertation Starters — Spending Money of some this beginning to the second of the seco • Draft or review your spending plan. **Remind** parents that they should come prepared to share what steps they took during the week to plan their spending. handout 2.9 O to the Making question-about flowards this chains be this is a chainly to tast a construction analysis of his area question private. If a private Making to the area of consequently be entitled a such as the flow Conpression to the great of the private Making theory is a shift from must would have deproper for more private for the privat A plannation in the face model are closes in a jor location constitute. (The observation delines are delines and a properties and the constitute of the cons handout 2.10 handout 2.11 Click to Slide 2.23

Wrap Up

Ask parents to complete the session evaluation (**Refer** to **Handout 2.12**).

(Allow enough time for parents to complete the evaluation.)

Showing Slide 2.23, **explain**

To wrap up our session, I'd like you to remember:

Read slide

Introduce next week's topic: *Planning Your Savings*

Conclusion

Thank you for attending today's session.
I look forward to seeing you next time and hearing about your experiences! Please leave the evaluations before you pick up your child(ren) from the other room.

Time Remaining



handout 2.12



slide 2.23

