

An Allowance Story



There are tons of opinions out there on the best way to handle allowance with kids. Some parents don't believe in giving allowance at all. This is an idea that must be navigated by the household heads, and agreed upon by those in authority in the home. Here is a story of how one family decided to handle giving their children allowance:

As our children got older we realized we needed to start giving them an allowance. Even when they were little bitty they had responsibilities. A 2 year old can pick up her toys, so that was the expectation. However, we didn't give our 2 year old an allowance.

But, once our oldest child was about 8 years old my husband and I came to the consensus that we wanted our children to understand the value of money and how to use it well. This decision drove our plan for allowance.

This is what we DIDN'T want:

We didn't want an allowance to be payment for services done. The idea of keeping up with a checklist of completed tasks and money associated to each task was just **EXHAUSTING**, so we knew that was a **NO GO!**

We didn't want our children to think they were obligated to an allowance either. There are times we haven't given it. Months when money is super tight they don't get an allowance. That has happened maybe 5 times in 3 years, but it has happened. Months when we've gone on a vacation, they typically don't get allowance (we're already splurging on them).

So we started giving an allowance and this is our plan:

My husband and I get paid on the 1st and 15th of the month, so our children get an allowance on those days as well.

They get \$1 per year for their age. We have an 8 and 11 year old, so this is close to \$40 per month, AND IT'S ONLY GOING UP!! Once a month may be a better plan for other families.



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Find your plan and work it.

Out of their \$, they save some, keep some, and give some away. It's highly important to us that our girls learn to give sacrificially to the local church, so we've taught them to give a tenth every month.

They also are allowed to choose how much they spend and how much they save. Our two girls are quite frugal with their money so they tend to save instead of spending.

Our oldest daughter knows that we'll be matching whatever money she puts toward a car. If she saves \$200 she gets a \$400 car. If she saves \$2000 she gets a \$4000 car. She knows this so she has started saving more than her little sister.

I realize there are tons of ways to do allowance. And this is our way, our story. What I know is it has generated in our girls very generous little hearts that understand everything we have comes from God and we get the opportunity to use it well or not well.

