

## **New web site launched to Inspire Children to Save**

It is estimated that between £250-£500 Million is given as money vouchers or cash gifts at Christmas to under 11s in the UK. (That's on top of all the other presents!)

This could buy an elite fantasy football team or a few Picassos or your very own fleet of Aston Martin DB5s. This spending frenzy from a young age is creating the debtors of tomorrow, the tragic victims of another Farepak scandal or 200% interest loan sharks, say the people behind a new website.

"The government has nagged us to save, but debt continues to be an ever present and growing problem," they say.

Last year, two friends were discussing what contribution they could make to the breaking Farepak scandal and to the many shaking charity buckets. They came to the conclusion that what was needed was a cultural change in the way we see money. From a "spend now save later" mentality to a "save a bit spend a bit forever" one.

Hence [www.saveabitspendabit.co.uk](http://www.saveabitspendabit.co.uk) was born. Its three main aims are to teach children the value of money, to open the life time dialogue between parents and children and a mentality that could save more than just money, maybe even the planet.

Co-founder Emma Ranson Bellamy, a life coach and single parent to two young boys said, "This site aims to inspire children to make the decision to spend a bit and save a bit of the money gifts they receive. If this creates a life long habit then debt will be eradicated from their future. The added advantage of encouraging positive dialogue between parents and children can only add to the future health of our society; as money is one of the major causes of feuding families and warring couples."

The simple web site encourages interaction, the children can make their very first financial planning decision and immediately receive a personalised certificate,. A 20 minute audio story details the 2 characters extreme lives, and, with a modern twist, triumph over tragedy reality TV show style, saves the day. A coaching handbook which helps parents use the audio story to initiate discussions about money as well as to find out their own money values and great tips and ideas to inspire their children to save. There is also a handbook written by one of the county's top financial advisers, to help parents make the most of the money gifts their children receive and info pack detailing the products and the pitfalls about investing for children. Along with fun E cards to send this site is jam packed of ideas and tools to help you help your children learn how to save and invest for the future.

There is also a new schools section helping teachers create inspiring and informative lessons to teach children how to save.

“The saving culture is more than just about money. Re cycling, our carbon footprint and even relationships as so many breakdown due to differences of opinion. Beginning a ‘modus operandi to save could save money, precious resources, relationships even the world.” Emma concludes, “Our vision is that this generation of children adopts this very simple attitude, save a bit spend a bit to eradicate excess debt in their futures,”

The downloads are all free so why not get your kids into a habit that could save them more than just money.

## **Try these 7 tips to inspire your children to develop a saving and spending habit**

- 1)** Make a game of both saving and spending. If only spending money is fun then they will associate fun with saving money.
- 2)** Create rituals. When they receive money as presents or from the tooth fairy have something that you do. Like putting it in the bank or the piggy bank. These are the traditions that they will continue and take forward into their own families.
- 3)** Look after the small things. Turning off the taps, saving pennies and giving small donations to charity are small things that they can do to create habits to last a lifetime. Ensure that you explain why you are doing it and what the consequences are if you do not do it.
- 4)** Praise, praise, praise. We learn by our mistakes but there are much more positive ways to learn and by praising this positive behaviour will encourage them to do the right thing ‘because it feels good’.
- 5)** When your children ask for something, rather than say no. Ask them if they would like to buy it from their own money and explain what the consequences are. You may find that they are happier to spend your money than they are their own.
- 6)** Be consistent. If you pay pocket money in return for chores make sure they do the chores. Even very young children can be responsible for tidying away their own toys or shoes. Make sure you pay it and have a ritual day and amount. See tip 2.
- 7)** Let them be spoilt (occasionally) don’t get hung up at Christmas and birthdays about too much, let the grandparents give them money for holiday’s etc. As adults we know this is all over too quickly the important thing is that they know the difference between ‘treats’ and every day life.

© This article was written by Emma Ranson Bellamy from Saveabitspendabit the world’s only website dedicated to inspiring children to save. For more information please contact [info@saveabitspendabit.co.uk](mailto:info@saveabitspendabit.co.uk)

