

Answer Back: Children's views on pocket money

Children everywhere get pocket money - but how much should it be and what should children have to pay for themselves?

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THE  TIMES

Chloe Sheppard, 15, Birmingham

Pocket money gives a child a sense of independence. If a kid has her own money, she feels more secure and happy. Personally I don't get pocket money anymore, but when I did I felt better about myself because I didn't have to keep asking my parents for money all the time. Kids should get pocket money and it should be up to their parents how much they get. Parents should always know what they are spending it on.

Derry Robert, 14, Plymouth

We are not asking for a lot, only about 10 a week to do basic activities.

Children should help their parents out as much as they can to earn a reasonable amount of pocket money. Then children my age would be able to do more things with our friends, like going to the cinema or even just to the swimming pool. We are not asking for a lot, only about 10 a week to do basic activities.

Daniel McCrisken, 11, Belfast

Children should have pocket money at the end of the week and should be free to spend it in any way they choose. Things like bus fares shouldn't have to be paid for with pocket money and it should be earned, not just expected. Helping around the house is a good way to earn money. Some children spend all their money at once but I like to save it up and buy something special. Children my age should get about 2 a week.

Siobhan Quinn, 12, Belfast

You need packet money for going out or for buying birthday presents. I think that 2.50 is the right amount for someone of my age. More money is too much of a temptation. Children might want to spend their money on cigarettes or alcohol.

Maija Marsh, 11, London

It is important that children have some money to learn about financial affairs like saving and budgeting. All my child benefit is sent straight to a building society account, so it is a nest-egg for when I am mature enough to invest it, or for when I go to university. I get lunch money plus 2 a week. From that I still eat lunch and manage to save plenty of cash.

Cindy Crome, 11, London

I think that children should get 2 each week, and if they do something generous like the washing up, they should get a bonus. How much you get depends on your parents and what mood they are in, but as long as you get some pocket money you will be fine.

Jodi Pearce, 10, Plymouth

Children should have pocket money because sometimes their parents say "buy it with your own money". But how are they going to get it? Paper rounds are too dangerous. Sometimes parents think that their children will spend it all on sweets, but most kids have better things to buy. I have to work around the house for my money. I think all children should do the same.

About *answer back*

answer back is a weekly column by Children's Express members, published in the Parents' pages of [The Times](#).

11 comments

Sharma

In some contries like India children dont get pocket money as the parents provide them with most of their needs. And it is considered extremely shameful if a child below the age of 18 works part time to earn his own money. Children back in India are supported financialy by their parents till their at least 20. This makes the children dependent on their parents and they tend to be unsure of almost any step they take. I think that parents should let their children face the world on their own.

Lavanya (age 14) from India, 31 May 2010 13:06

pocket money

i think children should get given wat they want when they want it but it should be at least \$30 a week

lulu (age 13) from some where over the rainbow, 04 November 2008 09:34

pocket money

I think that a reasonable amount for someone my age is about £5 a week. It's a relatively small sum, but is definatley enough. Children should be encouraged to save their money, but they shouldn't be forced. At the moment, I get £4, which I find sufficiently covers my needs. My parents pay for clothes, shoes etc etc...also things like CDs, books, or makeup they buy for me. Also, whatever I save for my phone, my parents triple it.

A good amount for a child to be starting off with would be maybe a quid a week, or something like that.

I was really shocked at some of the answers on this page- £10 for basic activities? Not everyone can be millionaires ;] if you want that kind of money, earn it yourself!

Coralie (age 14) from York, 04 September 2008 16:13

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