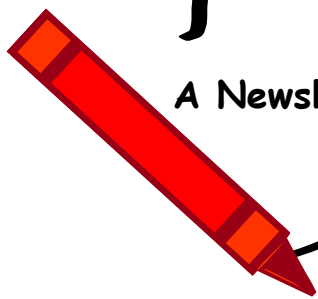




# Finger Prints

A Newsletter about Little Hands and Those Who Care For Them



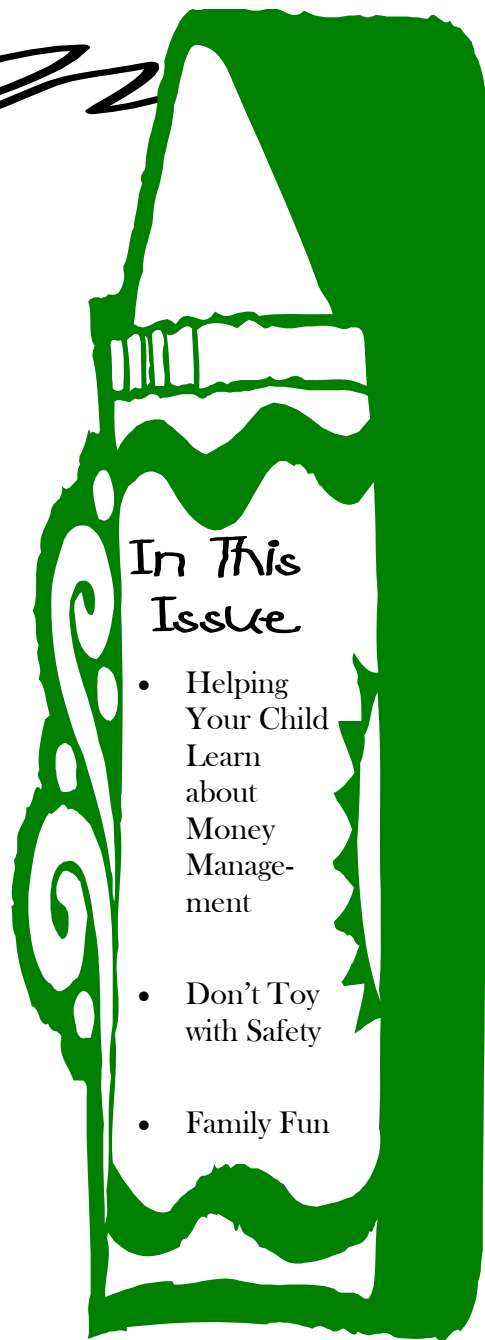
## Technology and Parenting

Are you being a good role model when it comes to technology? Just think about it. We set the standard for technology use with our own behavior. Kids do as they see their parents do, not as their parents say. So if you have a phone with you and are "on" 24/7, then your child will learn that paying attention to whoever is not with you is the way to build a healthy relationship. Your child will come to crave communication without eye contact, facial expressions and tone of voice or sense of smell. All of these are absent when talking, texting or tweeting on your phone. Yet they are all essential to building lasting, trusting relationships.

The best gift you can give your child is that he knows you care enough about him to pay attention to what he has to say and to acknowledge the positive things that he does. If you expect him to look at you and pay attention when you talk to him, you must give him the same respect. By picking up your phone or texting while you are in the presence of your child, you are saying loud and clear to your child, "You're not nearly as important as the person who is texting or calling in." Realistically we all need to communicate via technology daily, but it is important to consider the message that we are sending to the people who are actually in our presence

### In This Issue

- Helping Your Child Learn about Money Management
- Don't Toy with Safety
- Family Fun



# Helping Your Children Learn About Money Management

Preschool children can learn a lot about money and begin to develop their attitudes toward money through:

- Play that helps preschoolers think about money. This helps children learn about daily consumer choices. For example, play restaurant, supermarket, post office, bank, gas station or car wash.
- Preschoolers can be taught that some family members go to work to earn money for family needs such as food, clothes and the home. Preschoolers can learn that other family members work at home so that the family does not have to buy some goods and services like laundry, cooking and yard work.

Children often **learn best by doing**. Let them be involved in the buying process. In the store, give children a choice of three items and accept their choice. Then, let them go to the sales clerk and pay for the item.

- Suppose your child has just made a bad decision about spending money. If he or she is unhappy, **don't give them more money!** We all learn from our mistakes.
- Help your child understand the link between jobs and money. Family members work because the family needs or wants food, clothes, toys, etc.
- By giving your children chores to do without pay, they learn they are part of the family and share in the house workload.

School-aged children learn to read, write and play by experience. They can also learn about money management through experiences.

- Children can reinforce math skills by making change.
- They are ready to help with the family shopping (making lists, tracking expenses in the grocery store).
- Discuss reasons for buying or not buying family and household items.
- Let children be a part of family money decisions. Ask them: "What do you think?"
- Give children opportunities to earn money.
- Do not pay for good grades, chores or good behavior. These should be expected.

An allowance is a child's share of family income to be used as the child chooses. Allowances help children gain experience in handling money and making decisions about how it should be spent. With your children, decide how much allowance they should receive. You can determine this by:

Keeping records of money used during the week for lunches, bus fares, other school expenses and entertainment. Or sit down with your child and draw up an expense account, deciding what items the child will pay for.

Help the child develop a simple record to track income and expenses.

The allowance can be paid daily for younger children or weekly/biweekly for older children.



# Don't Toy with Safety

Naturally, you want your children to have a safe play environment with safe toys. Did you know that in 2009, there were an estimated 181,900 toy-related injuries? And that children under 5 accounted for nearly half of these injuries?

Do your children like small play balls and balloons? These kinds of toys account for many choking deaths. Do your children like riding toys - unpowered scooters or tricycles? They are associated with more injuries than any other toy group; in fact half of the toy-related injuries treated in emergency rooms were caused by unpowered riding toys. In addition to other hazards, any electrical toy is a potential burn hazard.

Make sure your children play safely by following some simple safety tips.

- Be sure your children play with toys that are age-appropriate. Read the warning labels before buying toys for your children.
- Look for well-made toys
- Check toys regularly for damage that could create hazards. Repair or discard damaged toys immediately.

- Make sure that discarded toys are out of children's reach.
- Watch your children while they play. Be aware of potential dangers like small parts, cords and strings, moving parts, electrical or battery-powered cords or wheels
- Do not allow riding toys near stairs, traffic or swimming pools
- Teach children to put toys away after playing. Toys intended for younger children should be stored separately from those suitable for older children

Make sure toy chests are open (no lid) or have safety hinges.

Source: Safe Kids USA, <http://www.safekids.org/>



## *Technology...continued from page 1*

Sherry Turkle, director of MIT's Initiative on Technology and Self, has studied the effect of technology on children and parenting. She has found that feelings of hurt, jealousy and competition are widespread. Turkle told the New York Times, "Over and over, kids raised the same three examples of feeling hurt and not wanting to show it when their mom or dad would be on their devices instead of paying attention to them at meals, during pickup after either school or an extracurricular activity, and during sports events."

The most important thing you can do as a parent is to be present in your child's life. So what are you going to change in 2011 to make sure this happens?

Source: Developing Digital Responsibility, Practical Parent Education, 2010.

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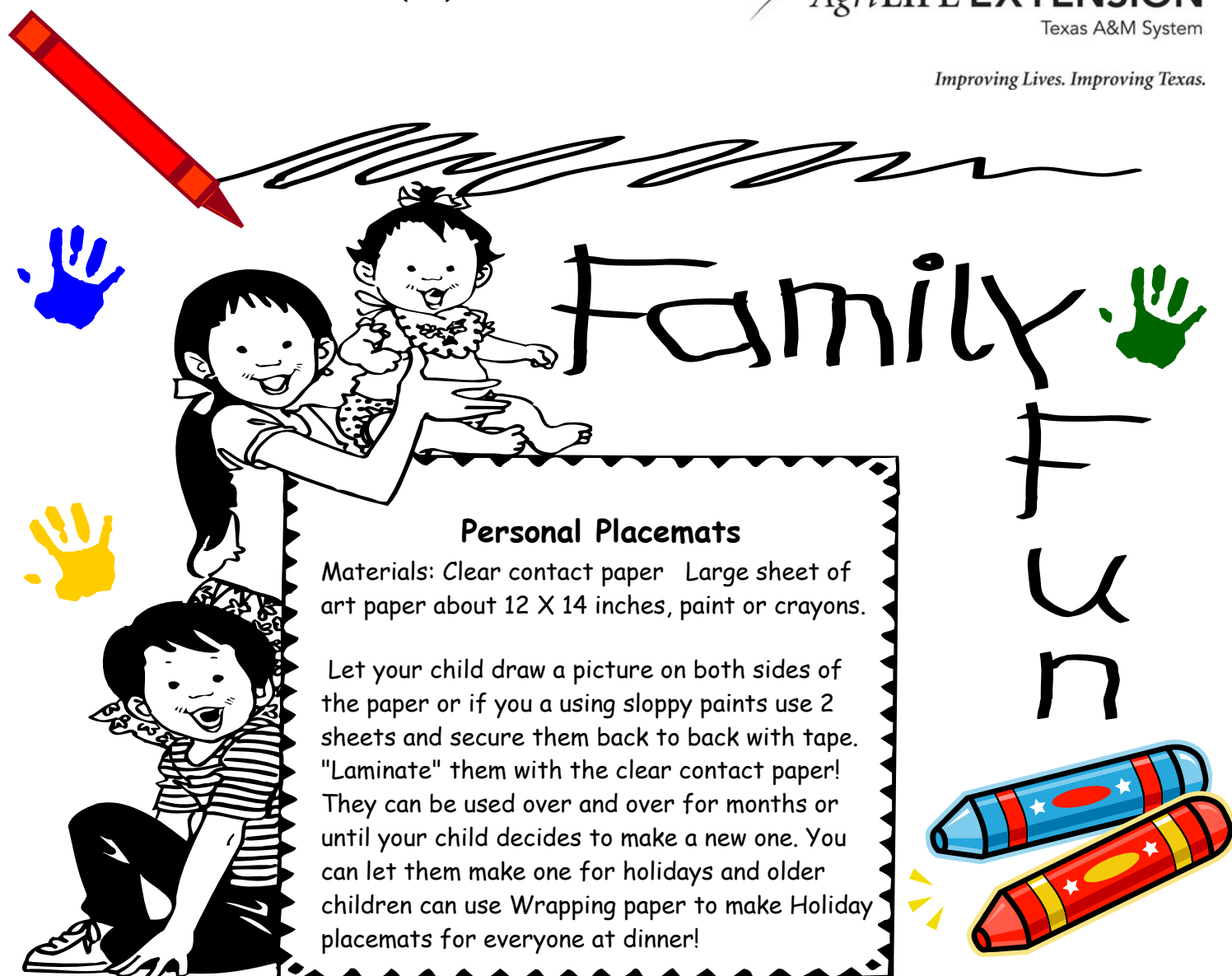
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### Personal Placemats

Materials: Clear contact paper Large sheet of art paper about 12 X 14 inches, paint or crayons.

Let your child draw a picture on both sides of the paper or if you are using sloppy paints use 2 sheets and secure them back to back with tape. "Laminate" them with the clear contact paper! They can be used over and over for months or until your child decides to make a new one. You can let them make one for holidays and older children can use Wrapping paper to make Holiday placemats for everyone at dinner!

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