



Real solutions for real business

www.caresworklifesolutions.com

Wellness Wire

Summer
2009
Issue

Published by CARE's WorkLife Solutions to help employees with life management issues.

Money Basics Kids Need to Learn: Learning the Value of a Dollar Starts Early

1. **Illustrate respect for money and how to use it responsibly.** Let children see you put financial literacy to good use in your daily family routines.
2. **Talk about wants, desires, and wishes and how they differ from basic needs.** Sometimes we buy what we wish, but usually we should stick to buying what we really need. Dispel "magical thinking" that mom and dad will make every wish come instantly true with money. When children beg for a new treasure in the toy aisle, use it as a teachable moment to talk about wants and needs. And take heart, it's not harmful to let child experience some temporary, age appropriate disappointment. If children believe a toy purchase will take place every time you enter a store, the outcome could be an over-indulged and spoiled child.
3. **Take children with you when you grocery shop.** Prior to shopping, include children in making a list. Even preschoolers can look into a low cupboard to report cereals needed. Use coupons to model being an intentional consumer. Preschoolers can identify coupons in magazines or newspapers. Kindergarteners and older children can cut them out. When you shop, keep to your list. Let kids help cross off items. Resist impulse buying. At the check out, let children hand money to the cashier to help them understand food requires money.
4. **Expect children to perform some chores for no allowance.** This could include bed making, putting toys away or taking dirty clothes to the hamper. This shows appreciation for family support and helps children feel like contributing members.
5. **By age four, begin giving children an allowance to manage.** Pay for doing the "extra mile" chores, such as helping to gather aluminum can recycling, feeding pets, raking leaves, sweeping the porch, etc. Some families require children to save a bit of allowance, spend a bit, and give a bit away to charity. Others let children spend the allowance however they wish, believing children will learn best from the consequences of their spending.
6. **Find ways to make saving and giving money tangible.** Together, make a homemade piggy bank and let kids fill it. Then open a savings account at a bank or credit union that offers "Kids Clubs" savings programs.
7. **Read children's books about money.** As with most topics children need to learn about, there are books available worth exploring. Books provide good information and open the door to "teachable moment" discussions. A suggested book is **Raising Money Smart Kids: What they Need to Know about Money and How to Tell Them**, by Janet Bodnar.



Source: Karen Stephens, Parenting Exchange
www.childcareexchange.com

We Can Help - Family Problems - Child Care - Personal/Job Stress - Alcohol/Drug Abuse - Marital Tension
Elder Care - Emotional Problems - Legal and Financial Referral - And Much More!

CARE's WorkLife Solutions - Services are FREE and confidential to employees, their spouses and dependents. Call Toll Free 866.888.1555 or www.caresworklifesolutions.com

Estate Planning Tips

Although it is something we do not want to think about, death is eminent. When we die, we typically leave behind a house, bank account, car, retirement fund, life insurance, jewelry, heirlooms, pets, children and more. It is in our best interest, and in the best interest of our loved ones, to have a plan in place on how to handle our estate. Hiring an estate planner is an inexpensive way to help avoid problems such as this:

It is common practice to always name at least two owners on any asset. When one owner dies, the asset passes to the surviving owner and probate court can be avoided. However, problems can arise if a parent adds only one of his children as a co-owner on an asset. The parent and child may have an "unwritten agreement" that the asset will be split equally among all siblings upon the parent's death. Yet it is not uncommon for the child named on the asset to keep all of it for himself. Often, this is justified as a repayment for all the help that the child provided to mom and dad during their lives, and there is nothing the other siblings can do to enforce the original "unwritten agreement."

Even if a parent adds all of his children to an asset, there is a risk if one of the children predeceases him. When surveyed, most people said they would give the inheritance of a deceased child to any grandchildren from that child. However, if only the children are named on an asset, and a child has predeceased his parents, those grandchildren have no legal right to share in that asset. They are at the mercy of a unanimous agreement between their aunts and uncles to give them a share.

Estate plans can eliminate these and many other potential problems. Whether you use a simple will or a revocable living trust, the right legal document can ensure that you don't leave these types of problems for your children.

This article was provided by Terri Giampetroni with Legal Strategies. Terri can be reached at 586.783.8350 or www.mylegalstrategies.com

Foreclosure Assistance and Tips

The lagging economy and effects of sub-prime mortgage lending have created a difficult environment for homeowners. There are different ways for the mortgage company to approach a foreclosure and there are ways for you to help prevent this. The best way is to prevent the filing of a Notice of Default. Lenders do not want to foreclose but will file a Notice of Default to protect their interests. If you know you are unlikely to meet your mortgage obligation, the first thing you should do is call your lender. Don't put it off, be embarrassed or ignore letters from your lender because those responses will make the situation worse, not better. Depending on your particular situation and hardship circumstances, here are some options your lender might propose to you:

- **Time to make up your payments.** Lenders might agree to wait before taking legal action against you and let you work out a repayment plan that is affordable for you.
- **Forgiving a payment.** If you review your situation and show that you will be current after missing a payment or two, the lender might give you a break.
- **Spread out the missed payments over a longer term.** For example, if your payment is, say, \$1,200 a month, the lender might let you add \$100 a month to each payment for a year until you are caught up.
- **Changing the terms of your loan.** If your mortgage is an adjustable loan, the lender might freeze the interest rate before it increases or change the interest rate. A lender might also extend the amortization period.
- **Add the back payments to your loan balance.** If you have sufficient equity and meet the lender's lending guidelines, the lender might increase your loan balance to include the back payments. This is called a refinance.
- **Make a separate loan to you.** Certain government loans contain provisions that let borrowers who meet specific criteria apply for another loan, which will pay back the missed payments. This is called a partial claim.

Stop Putting Off That Vacation!

Are you having a hard time planning a nice get away? Think you can't afford a vacation?
Have you ever thought about traveling Michigan?

"Michigan citizens spend millions of dollars every year on travel outside of our two peninsulas. With so much to see and do right here in our own backyard, we have thousands of reasons to spend those dollars here at home."

~ Governor Jennifer M. Granholm ~

To find out more on what Michigan has to offer log on to www.michigan.org.
You will be surprised at all there is to see and do right here at home.



**We Can Help - Family Problems - Child Care - Personal/Job Stress - Alcohol/Drug Abuse - Marital Tension
Elder Care - Emotional Problems - Legal and Financial Referral - And Much More!**

CARE's WorkLife Solutions - Services are FREE and confidential to employees, their spouses and dependents. Call Toll Free 866.888.1555 or www.caresworklifesolutions.com