

Should I Give My Kids an Allowance for Doing Chores?

By Jan Faull, MEd

孩子做了家务我是否该给他们零花钱？

Parenting Expert Jan Faull, MEd, suggests an approach to helping around the house and teaching kids how to manage money.

教育专家简·佛尔，提出了一个能帮助父母做家务又能教孩子理财的方法。

Q. Now that my oldest son is 10, I feel he's old enough to help out more around the house. He is already tidying his room on a weekly basis, but I would like him to help with things like setting the table for dinner and emptying the trash in the bathrooms. My husband thinks we should give him a weekly allowance for these extra tasks, but I disagree. Helping around the house should be part of living in the house. At what point do you think children need to be compensated for doing work around the house? And how much is fair?

问：我最大的儿子有 10 岁，我觉得他可以帮忙干多点家务了。他每个星期都会收拾他自己的房间，但是我还希望他能帮着做更多的事，比如：摆桌子、清理浴室的垃圾。我丈夫认为他如果完成了这些额外的任务就应该每周给他点零花钱。帮着做家务应该成为在这个房子里生活的一部分。在哪点上你认为孩子做了家务应该给以报酬？给多少算公平呢？

A. There are three factors at work that beg your consideration:

答：有三个因素你需要考虑：

1. Family duties. 家庭职责

Because kids live in the family home, they're expected to contribute to the overall functioning of the household. Putting clothes down the laundry chute, helping with dinner and dishes, and tidying one's bedroom and bathroom are givens. People should also be expected to clean up after themselves. If a child builds a model airplane, he needs to put the supplies away and clean any up any mess once he's completed the project.

因为孩子生活在一个家庭中，所以他们应该为整个家庭的运作出分力。他们应该做这些事：把衣服放在衣物滑槽里，帮忙做饭，洗碗，打扫卧室和浴室等。人走后也应该清扫干净。如果孩子做了个模型飞机，完工后他应该立刻把所有工具都收起来，然后打扫干净。

2. Learning about money. 了解理财

Children, particularly those age 10 and older, need the opportunity to learn to manage money. Thereby an allowance that's tied to learning financial management can be a good idea. To explain, give your son an allowance somewhere between \$5.00 and \$10.00 per week and then tell him you expect him to save a portion (about a dollar per week), to give a charity or your religious organization, and then the rest he can spend as he chooses.

孩子，尤其 10 岁或更大的孩子，需要学习理财。零花钱与理财紧密相关，因此奖励孩子零花钱会是个好主意。为了解释这点，你可以每周给你的儿子 5—10

美元的零花钱，并告诉他你希望他能省出一部分（大约一周一元），捐出一部分给慈善机构或宗教机构，剩下的他可以自由支配。

Designate exactly what you expect him to use this money for, like movie tickets, candy, books, games, or birthday or holiday presents for family members. You can teach him to budget and plan, guiding him toward fiscal responsibility.

明确指定这些钱的用处，如买电影票、糖果、书籍、游戏或给家人的生日或节日礼物等。你可以叫他如何做开支预算，引导他承担财务责任。

If he spends all his money on candy on Monday when he receives his allowance, and then wants to rent a DVD to watch with a friend on Friday night, don't fork over the cash. Simply say, "You spent all your allowance, you'll need to plan better next week."

如果周一他把得来的所有零花钱都拿来买糖了，那么当他想周五晚上租个 DVD 碟在和朋友们一起看时，你可千万别再给他钱。只跟他说：“你已经花完了你的零花钱，下星期你得计划得更好点。”

3. **Compensation for extra work.** 额外工作的报酬

When children complete tasks that are over and above their line of duty, then they can be paid for their work. Mowing the lawn, cleaning the garage or basement, babysitting younger siblings, or cleaning kitchen cupboards fall into this category.

当孩子们完成了他们职责以外的事时，他们应该获得相应的报酬。修整草坪、清扫车库或地下室、照顾弟弟妹妹或者清理厨柜都属于这类额外的工作。

Now the obvious question is, what happens if the child refuses to tidy his bedroom and bathroom, help with dinner and dishes, put dirty clothes in the hamper, or clean up his messes? Parents can decide between withholding the allowance, withdrawing privileges such as time at the computer or TV, or employing reciprocity, "Since you haven't helped me with dishes this week, I can't drive you to your friend's house on Saturday."

现在有个很明显的问题是：如果孩子不愿打扫卧室或浴室，不愿帮忙做饭和洗碗，不愿把脏衣服拿到篮子里，也不愿整理房间，这时该怎么办？父母可以在收回零花钱和收回玩电脑或看电视的特权或采取互惠的方法之间进行选择。

“既然你这星期没有帮我洗碗，那我周六也不可能会开车带你去朋友家玩。”

When you employ any of these tactics, keep in mind your goal, which is that the child contributes to the overall functioning of the household and that he learns to manage money. If you're not reaching these goals and power plays ensue, back off for a month or so, and ask your son for ideas as to how to proceed. Negotiate and compromise until you reach your parenting goal.

如果你采用了以上任何策略，请记住你的目的是让孩子愿意为整个家庭的运作做点事，同时还要让他们学习理财。如果你没有达到这些目标，则停用这些策

略大约一个月，问问你儿子接下来该怎么做，看他有什么主意。进行协商与妥协，直到你达到了你的教育目的。

Remember also, when your son completes a task, offer your appreciation. Flattery gets you everywhere with kids.

你还要记住，当你儿子完成一项任务时，你要表示赞赏。孩子们都喜欢听好听的话。

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