

# parent's CORNER

## AN EARLY START TO SAVING

*If you don't teach your kids about money, someone else will. Is that a risk you're willing to take? Didn't think so! Here are a few easy steps to ensure your kiddos are starting off on the right track.*

# 1

**Discuss Wants vs. Needs** – The first step on this journey is distinguishing the difference between wants and needs. Explain to your child that needs include basics like food and shelter, clothing, healthcare, and even education. Wants are all the extras – a new toy, the yummy candy bar they spotted at the check-out line or maybe tickets to the latest big movie at the theatre.

# 2

**Allow Them to Earn Their Own Money** – The Internet is full of endless age-appropriate chore ideas for ages two and up. Create a chore list for your child and allow them to earn their own money each week. Allowing your children to earn and save money at an early age gives them the opportunity to learn just how to use it.

**Pro Tip |** Let your child to see their savings! A clear bank of some sort will allow them to see their money grow, rather than just wondering about what is inside.

# 3

**Set Goals and Track Spending** – For a child, saving with no purpose may seem pointless. They need a 'why' to stay motivated! Help your little one set a savings goal for big purchases. If they make \$5 each week and are saving for a toy that costs \$25, how long will it take to reach that goal? Encourage your kids to track spending by writing down each purchase. This allows them to see where exactly their money is going and gives a good look at spending patterns.



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## THE AWESOME, KID-FRIENDLY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# sprout CENTS



**VOL. 4, ISSUE 1**

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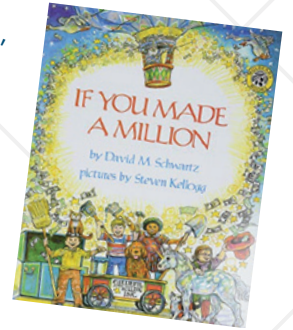


THERE'S SNOW  
PLACE LIKE  
**CENTRIC**  
TO HELP YOU  
**SAVE!**



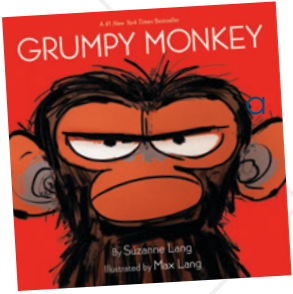
**IF YOU MADE A MILLION**  
by David M. Schwartz  
BL: 4.1, AR Points: 0.5

Have you ever wanted to make a million dollars? Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician is ready, willing, and able to explain the nuts and bolts -- as well as the mystery and wonder -- of earning money, investing it, accruing dividends and interest, and watching savings grow. There will be no doubt this is time well spent for one and all!



**GRUMPY MONKEY**  
By Suzanne Lang  
BL: 2.2, AR Points: 0.5

Jim the chimpanzee is in a terrible mood for no good reason. His friends can't understand it--how can he be in a bad mood when it's SUCH a beautiful day? They have lots of suggestions for how to make him feel better. But Jim can't take all the advice...and has a BIT of meltdown. Could it be that he just needs a day to feel grumpy?



**Mardi Gras Mad Lib**  
Have someone help you fill in each blank (don't read the whole story until you've filled in ALL the blanks!) and then read your awesome Mad Lib!

Laissez Bon Temps Rouler! That's French for 'Let the Good Times Roll!' Here in \_\_\_\_\_ we love to \_\_\_\_\_ Mardi Gras. One of my \_\_\_\_\_ things about Mardi Gras is the \_\_\_\_\_. At the parades, they \_\_\_\_\_ to you, along with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Each year, my family \_\_\_\_\_ a King Cake for us to \_\_\_\_\_. A King Cake is a \_\_\_\_\_ baked pastry with a small plastic \_\_\_\_\_ inside. Whoever gets the slice with the \_\_\_\_\_ inside, has to \_\_\_\_\_ the next King Cake!



**EVENTS**

**Black Inventors & Scientists Traveling Exhibit**  
NELA Delta African American Heritage Museum are pleased to welcome Black Inventors and Scientists Museums. This traveling exhibit is a wonderful way to learn about the great contributions of Black inventors and scientists who have given everything from the refrigerator to aspirin.  
**February 8-12**  
NELA Delta African American Heritage Museum

**Krewe de Riviere Mardi Gras Parade**  
Celebrate Mardi Gras with the Krewe de Riviere's "The Greatest Sheaux!" Enjoy food trucks, activities and more to help you get in the Mardi Gras spirit throughout the Twin Cities.  
**February 12 | Downtown Monroe and West Monroe**

**Krewe of Janus Mardi Gras Parade**  
Don't miss out on the Krewe of Janus Mardi Gras Parade! This is a traditional Mardi Gras Parade with marching units, floats and costumes!  
**February 19 | Downtown Monroe and West Monroe**

**St. Patrick's Day Bicycle Parade and Festival**  
Join Centric and the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce for the annual Bike Parade and Festival at Kirol Park! The event includes music, crafts, children's activities, food vendors and a bicycle parade open to bikes, trikes, wagons, strollers and even pets!  
**March 12 | Kirol Park in West Monroe**

