

Conclusion

Money will continue to change. The way we use money will also change. What will not change is the role of money in our lives. The ability to control one's money provides the power to make choices. As in life in general, power without responsibility can be dangerous. Yet responsibility without control is unrewarding and frustrating.

Managing money is a combination of knowledge and practice. One without the other is ineffective. Children learn by playing—a child's play *is* practice. Money management techniques learned by practicing with the no-cash allowance let a child gain knowledge about the complexities and realities of money.

One might say we created this as a game using money. Perhaps that is true, but isn't life itself a game? As for learning about money we believed that practice was the best teacher.

What do our daughters think about their experience with the no-cash allowance now that they are adults? Their comments provide the conclusion to this book.

§§§

Abby: First Account, Age Three

I remember writing one of my first checks for \$3.53 to buy candy at a local grocery store. Although I have quite the sweet tooth, it wasn't the candy that was so memorable. I was in seventh grade and there I was making purchases with a check. I felt pretty cool!

This was one of the benefits of my parent's money system in our home. I was unique among my friends because I had my own checking account and control over a lot of spending money. Tracking money on paper was something I did from the age of three and it was something that just made sense to me.

My success with money management carried with me when I moved away from home. In my early twenties, I would shop at the mall and pay with my credit cards. Using a credit card didn't concern me because I always paid my balance in full, something most young adults don't always do.