

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, Connor will understand the basics of budgeting, including how to track income and expenses effectively. He will create his own budget plan and learn the importance of managing finances to achieve financial stability and goals.

## Materials and Prep

- Notebook or paper for notes and calculations
- Pencil or pen for writing
- Calculator (optional for calculations)
- Access to a computer or smartphone for online research (optional)

Before the lesson, ensure Connor understands the concept of income (money earned) and expenses (money spent). It may be helpful to have a basic idea of his own income sources and typical expenses.

## Activities

- **Income and Expense Brainstorm:** Start by brainstorming all potential sources of income Connor might have (like allowances, part-time jobs, etc.) and all possible expenses (like snacks, games, or outings). Write these down in two columns to visualize the differences.
- **Create a Simple Budget:** Using the brainstormed lists, Connor will create a simple monthly budget. He can allocate a certain amount to each expense category and see how it compares to his total income.
- **Tracking Game:** Set up a fun tracking game where Connor tracks his expenses for a week. He can use a notebook or a simple spreadsheet to log every expense and categorize them. At the end of the week, review together how well he stuck to his budget.
- **Goal Setting:** Discuss financial goals with Connor. Have him write down one short-term and one long-term financial goal. This could be saving for a new video game or a bigger purchase like a bike. Help him plan how his budget can help achieve these goals.

## Talking Points

- "Understanding where your money comes from and where it goes is the first step to managing it well."
- "A budget is like a map for your money; it helps you see where you want to go and how to get there."
- "Tracking your expenses can be eye-opening; you might find you spend more on snacks than you thought!"
- "It's important to differentiate between needs (like food) and wants (like video games) when budgeting."
- "Having a budget can help you avoid debt and save for things that really matter to you."
- "Setting financial goals gives you something to work towards and makes budgeting feel more purposeful."
- "Reviewing your budget regularly helps you adjust it based on your spending habits and changing needs."

- "It's okay to have fun with your money, but make sure you plan for it so you don't run out!"
- "Saving a little bit each month can lead to big rewards later, so start small!"
- "Using apps or tools to track your budget can make it easier and more fun."
- "Remember, budgeting is a skill that gets easier with practice, just like any other skill."
- "Don't be afraid to ask for help if you're unsure about how to budget or manage your finances."
- "Every financial decision you make now can impact your future, so think ahead!"
- "Learning to budget now will set you up for success later in life, especially when you start earning more."
- "The more you know about budgeting, the more control you have over your money."