**Children’s Allowances**

**Dennis asks his Dad: “Dad, could you advance me a hundred dollars on my allowance?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**American kids are given an average of $15 a week in allowance, according to a recent survey. Some 61 percent of all parents pay an allowance, and more than half start making these payments when their children are just 8 years old. Only 1 percent of kids save any of their allowance money, with most of them immediately buying toys and candy. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 14, 2012)***

**A friend of mine has several children who complain constantly that they need bigger allowances. Tired of hearing their grumbling, my friend said to them, “Kids, you don’t know just how good you have it. When I was a boy, I used to get up early to deliver newspapers. I walked to school in the snow and rain, and after school I delivered groceries. Sometimes we didn’t even have enough to eat.” His children listened intently, and my friend thought he had made his point until his youngest piped up, “Hey, Pop! I bet you’re awful glad you live with us now!” *(A. R., in Reader’s Digest)***

**Overheard: “I don’t mind that my son is earning more than I did on my first job. What disturbs me is that he’s six and it’s his allowance.” *(Business to Business)***

**Boy to father reading the financial news: “Here’s a leading economic indicator, Dad. It’s only Tuesday and my weekly allowance is shot.” *(Abbott, The Wall Street Journal)***

**Ohio State Treasurer J. Kenneth Blackwell could not be present to accept a community-service award from the Cincinnati Urban League, so his 12-year-old daughter, Kristin, filled in. She explained that she was grateful to receive the honor on his behalf and added that taxpayers could be assured that he would keep the state’s money safe. “I am here to give you firsthand testimony that he is a tightfisted, penny-pinching conservative bean counter,” Kristin said. “I know -- I haven’t had a cost-of-living increase in my allowance since I was five years old.” *(James Bradshaw, in Columbus, Ohio Dispatch)***

**Mom: “What have you learned at school so far?” Dolly: “A lot of the other kids get weekly allowances.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**One man comments to the other: “This is his allowance? That’s more than I made on my first job.” *(Reminisce Extra magazine cartoon)***

**Zoe: “I need an allowance.” Dad: “Do you even know what an allowance is?” Zoe: “Sure! It’s money somebody gives you that you can spend on whatever makes you happy.” Dad then says to Mom: “I need an allowance.” *(Rock Kirkman and Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**When our son Chris was eight years old, his weekly allowance was never enough. One day he read aloud the nutrition information from a bag of potato chips. “Look, Mom,” he said, “even the USDA recommends daily allowances.” *(Barbara H. Davis, in Ladies’ Home Journal)***

**A child asked for a raise in allowance. “I’m sorry,” replied the child’s father. “I don’t raise allowances, only children.” *(Suzan Wiener, in Catholic Digest)***

**Child says to his Mom right before going to sleep: “You know, for just a small increase in my allowance, I could make bedtime a lot easier.” *(Country Woman magazine comic)***

**A teenager came to his father and said, “Dad, don’t you think it’s time I stood on my own two feet? Don’t you think I should face the world and handle my own problems?” “Yes, son, I do,” answered the father proudly. “Well, I can’t do it on the allowance I get now!” *(The American Legion Magazine)***

**Just before payday, I asked my wife what we could do that was both unusual and cheap. Our teen-age son, overhearing the conversation, said, “Why not pay my allowance?” *(Kyle D. Pratt, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One child says to another child: “If my parents knew the value of a dollar, my allowance would be a lot more than 50 cents.” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)*
As a security officer for a defense contractor, I have to make sure all visitors sign in. One day I was in the lobby and noticed an employee’s college-age daughter writing in the visitors’ log. When I checked the log at the end of the day, I noticed her signature. Next to “Purpose of visit” she had written, “To get money from Dad.” *(Joseph Hoffler)***

**First boy: “I get a whole quarter for allowance every week.” Second boy: “I get ten dollars.” First boy: “Wanna be friends?” *(Rick Stromoski, in Soup to Nutz comic strip)***

**Boy to father: “I don't know why you call this an allowance. It doesn't allow me to do much of anything.” *(Shanks, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

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