

Should Kids Get Paid to Do Chores?

Megan says she should earn cash for doing chores. Her mom isn't so sure. Who makes the best argument? You decide!



YES

I Deserve It!

Dear Mom,

You know how you and Dad are totally stressed out? And you know how I am always asking you for money? Well, I have the perfect solution to both problems: Pay me to help around the house. Brilliant idea, right?

I already have to make my bed and put my laundry away. Now, I'll also set the table, sweep the kitchen floor, mow the lawn, and take Buster on his morning walk—all for the bargain price of \$10 a week. If there are weeks when you need me to do more, I'll be happy to, for a slightly higher charge, of course.

This plan will make your life easier, and it will be good for me. Studies show that kids who have chores benefit in many ways. According to professor Marty Rossmann from the University of Minnesota, adults who did chores as children are more likely to have good relationships with their families and to be successful in school and in their careers. They are also more self-sufficient.

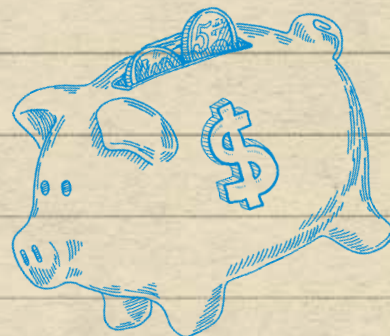
But that's not all. I will also learn responsibility. I'm a pretty busy kid. I've got homework, piano practice, and swimming. To get my new chores done on top of all that, I'll have to organize my time better and get up earlier in the morning.

Another benefit is that I will learn how to manage my money—and to appreciate what I buy. For example, you know how I really want an iPhone? I can save up my chore money for it. Then every time I use my new phone, I will remember how hard I worked to earn it.

Now, you might be thinking that I should just do all these chores for free. But chores are work. *You* get paid to work. Shouldn't I get paid to work too?

So what do you think? I'm ready to start right now!

Megan



NO

It's Not About Money.

Dear Megan,

Your father and I are THRILLED that you will now be helping us keep our house clean, the kitchen organized, the yard neat, and Buster walked. You are certainly old enough to begin taking on more responsibility, and good for you for stepping up and offering to pitch in.

But Dad and I will not be paying you to do this work. Nobody pays Dad to wash the dishes and take out the garbage and mop the floors. And I would be a millionaire if I got paid every time I did the laundry or made lasagna or drove you and your brother to school. Chores are part of family life, and we all need to pitch in to keep our home clean and organized.

Another problem is that if we pay you to do chores, you might decide that taking a week off is worth missing out on the money you would have earned.

Then what will happen?

Will poor Buster not get his walk?

Doing chores isn't the same as having a paying job. Chores have to be done—whether you get paid or not. Think about it: If no one ever vacuumed the carpet or scoured the toilet or took out the trash, our home would get filthy fast. Now, if you want to earn some pocket money to spend on going to the movies or saving up for an iPhone, you certainly can. How about babysitting for the neighbors or becoming a lifeguard?

You are right about one thing: Doing chores does teach you about responsibility. But it will also teach you another important lesson:

Sometimes we do jobs not for a reward, but because we simply have to do them.

Actually, you *will* get a reward for doing your chores: the smiles on your parents' faces! Isn't that worth at least 10 bucks?

Love,

Mom

Hey, no one pays ME to do this!



SCAVENGER HUNT

Directions: Hunt through each letter for the following elements.

1. Underline the **central idea**, or **central claim**.
2. Put a star next to two pieces of **supporting evidence**.
3. Circle the **counterargument**.
4. Put a double star next to the writer's **rebuttal**.

YOU decide: Who made the stronger argument?