



Kentucky Council on Economic Education FAMILY MONEY MATH NIGHT KIT

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A GUIDE TO FAMILY MONEY MATH NIGHT

Family Money Math Nights are a great way to get parents involved and expand math education into the home. And what better way to teach math than through money! Everyone has an interest in money – parents and children alike. Schools are committed to closing the achievement and opportunity gap for all children and to accomplish this, the full support and involvement of students' families is necessary.

Family Money Math Nights are developed by the Kentucky Council on Economic Education through funding by Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky (TMMK). Our goal is to engage families in their children's learning and academic development. This kit includes hands-on activities for preK-5 students and their parents working together to learn about earning, spending, and saving, using math applications.

What is Family Money Math Night?

Family Money Math Night is a fun event for elementary school students and their parents. It lets students show off their math skills and introduces them to interactive math activities that deal with every-day life – MONEY – saving it, spending it, earning it, and managing it!

Meanwhile, their parents see what their children are learning in school, learn ways they can connect with their children's learning through real world math, and perhaps learn a few things themselves!

Why Have a Family Money Math Night?

Family Money Math Night

- helps students overcome their anxiety about math, with fun activities to spark their interest and volunteers to help them when they get stuck.
- introduces math topics in a different way than they are introduced in class, appealing to the different learning styles.
- helps students understand how math applies to many different kinds of problems in the real world.
- gives busy parents and teachers one more chance to connect with each other, and with resources in their community.
- shows students and parents that math is fun!

What happens during Family Money Math Night?

There are several different ways to set up a Family Money Math Night.

- separate student and parent activities
- activities for parents and students to work on together
- stations with quick activities for students/parents
- speakers for parents on financial topics they may find of interest
- financial math computer games sessions

Preparing for Family Money Math Night

1. Organize a school committee to decide what the Family Money Math Night wants to accomplish and how.

2. Set your Date, Time, and Location

Picking a date and time

Try to schedule Family Money Math Night during an evening or weekend, so that parents can attend with their children. Check to see if the date you want doesn't overlap with other big school or community events.

Decide how long the event will last. Typically, two hours will work.

Finding a good location

When it comes to picking a location for your Family Money Math Night your school is an obvious choice. Parents know where to find it, and you can use the cafeteria, library, computer labs, as well as classrooms for sessions.

However, many other places can serve as a location for Family Money Math Night - community centers or church basements, for example.

3. Advertising Family Money Math Night

Once you have arranged a time and place for Family Money Math Night, you should think about ways to advertise it. You can post announcements on school bulletins boards or Internet sites, get it mentioned on school calendars or in school newsletters, or send memos home with the students. You can also make announcements at school-related meetings like the Scouts or the PTA. Your local paper may have a section for schools and community news items.

A few days prior to the event, [be sure to invite the local media, newspapers](#), etc. to the event to report to the whole community know about your event! Please provide KCEE with copies of any media coverage you receive for the event!

See the attached Family Money Math Night flyer in this kit that you can personalize. Please be sure to include "Kentucky Council on Economic Education" and "Toyota Motor Manufacturing – TMMK" as the sponsors of the Family Money Math Night Kit.

4. Chose a Suitable Mix of Modules and Activities

As you pick and choose what modules and games you would like to use during your Family Money Math Night, you need to keep several considerations in mind --- how many displays and activities you have room for, choosing a mix of modules that will provide activities that cover all grade levels, and choosing modules that you are able to obtain the supplies and equipment for.

- Determine the number of sessions necessary for your setting (two per grade level K-2, one per grade level 3-5, two per grade level K-5?) The number of sessions will depend on enrollment and anticipated attendance.
- Browse the attached folders and choose one lesson per session according to grade level. Modify lessons as necessary for your school community.

Family Money Math Night Volunteers

Types of Volunteers

You'll need to volunteers for several types of duties. Besides having one or more volunteers for each display or activity, you will also need volunteers to help with setup and cleanup, to work with students (if needed) on activities, staff the prize table (if you decide to have one), and to act as chaperones.

You will also want a photographer volunteer to take pictures during your event!

Qualities of Volunteers

Hopefully, you will find volunteers that have patience, lack of math anxiety, have patience, are cheerful, have patience, are good with children, have patience,...

Finding Volunteers

One place to start looking for volunteers is teachers at the school. You can also ask upper level students or high school students to help out as Student Leadership Teams

you have a local college that offers degrees in education, see if their students can help out with Family Money Math Night as a class project.

More ideas for identifying community stakeholders available in your area for volunteers:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Banks/Credit Unions
- Family Resource Center
- 4-H
- Youth Centers
- Student Teachers
- High School Math Clubs
- Lions Club
- Rotary
- Professional Business Organizations

Initial contact with volunteers could be made by phone and then follow up with a letter.

Training Volunteers

Before Family Money Math Night itself, you should make sure that each volunteer has a chance to go over the material for the display or activities they will be directing, as well as the instructions for being a volunteer. You may want your volunteers to come at least 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the event.

Setting up Family Money Math Night

Prep and set up

- Make sure that you have sufficient volunteers on hand to help set up tables, displays, etc. as needed.
- Prepare name badges for all volunteers so that the students and parents can readily identify the people running the show.
- Prepare signs directing people to activities, sign in table, etc.
- Prepare an agenda with room locations, times, etc. for events for parents, volunteers, etc.
- Prepare folders with nametags and handouts for each session.
- Ask student leadership team to escort community volunteers on the evening of the event.
- Ask student leadership team to play host/hostess as parents arrive ushering families to the appropriate room(s).
- Depending on lessons selected, gather any supplies needed.
- You may want to ask PTO/PTSO to provide a hospitality room for presenters the evening of the event.
- Snacks for adults & children (optional).

Evaluation/Survey

It is always important to evaluate your events, to help make them better, to provide reporting to sponsors, event planners, and organizers

Enclosed are Evaluation Forms for Parents, Volunteers, and Teachers. Your evaluation of the success of this program will be instrumental in revisions (if needed) for our online version of this Family Money Math Kit. Please send copies of evaluations to KCEE@Bellarmine University, AFT School of Education, 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

Wrap up

- Announce successes! Include photos!
- It is a good idea to plan an announcement after Family Money Math Night, to let everyone know about its success!
- Have School committee send “Thank-You” notes to all businesses and volunteers.
- Please be sure to include the **“Kentucky Council on Economic Education”** and **“Toyota Motor Manufacturing – TMMK”** as the sponsor.
- Survey all stakeholders for input for future event.
- Leave notes for next year’s organizer.