



POWELL CENTER FOR
ECONOMIC LITERACY

Lesson Plan

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Economic Tips for Parents

Grade Level

For All Grade Levels

Keystone Principles

Principle #8 – Quantity and Quality of Resources Impact Living Standards

Economic Concepts

Capital Resources - *Equipment and structures that are used in the production of goods and services.*

Entrepreneurship - *A person who assumes the risk of business and uncertainty of the future, to produce goods and services with the expectation of earning a profit.*

Human Resources - *The mental and physical skills and abilities of people that are utilized in the production process. A skilled and educated workforce.*

Natural Resources - *Land and other like resources such as water, forests, animals, and minerals*

Resources - *Factors of production such as land, labor, capital, technology, and entrepreneurial skills that are used to produce goods and services, to satisfy the wants and needs of consumers.*

Overview

One way for individuals and nations to improve their living standards is by improving the quality of their human resources, and education is the key to that improvement. A significant portion of a child's knowledge base is transmitted by parents. This lesson offers parents and guardians some ideas for fostering the growth of economic awareness in their children. When parents and schools work together toward the same objective, great progress can be made.

Objectives

Teachers will reach out to parents with practical suggestions for ways they can help to reinforce economic literacy.

Teaching Activity

I. Make a presentation to the parents about the importance of the Keystone Principles as a part of your “Back to School” night at the beginning of each year.

- Weave this concept broadly into the goals of the school as a whole.
- Emphasize that economics is fundamentally about sound decision-making.
- Economics will have more impact on the students if it is taught as a part of a whole rather than as an add-on to an existing subject.
- Have a translator available if a number of parents are immigrants or are still learning English.
- Consider whether a presentation would be better from a teacher or an administrator.
- Determine the best format for the presentation – visual power point, printed copies, or a town hall approach with a discussion, or a combination.
- Twp Powell resources are available to help you create a presentation. Our brochure, “[Keystone Principles: A Starter Guide](#)” is located on our website and available in hard copy by contacting this office. We have also developed a coordinating power point which is downloadable for your use, and can be found at www.powellcenter.org/keystone/keystone.ppt

II. Tips to Encourage Economic Literacy at Home

- Encourage an honest and confident attitude in your child.
 1. Catch your child doing something well or displaying a trait you admire and praise them for it. A parent’s approval is one of the most powerful incentives in molding a child’s value system.
 2. Encourage your child to “teach” you about the economics s/he learns in school. This will both reinforce what your child has learned and will indicate to your child that you value this knowledge.
- Help your child learn about the world of work:
 1. Take your child to work with you and introduce him/her to fellow employees and discuss the skills needed for their positions.
 2. Look through the classified ads with your child and discuss the skills/training needed for job opportunities.
 3. Encourage age-appropriate jobs such as baby-sitting, feeding pets, tending gardens, dusting, vacuuming, watering lawns, folding laundry, or taking out garbage.
 4. Explain how people may need to change jobs if a product or service is no longer wanted.
- Help your children develop desirable workforce attitudes by modeling them.
 1. Be on time
 2. Honor commitments
 3. Look for win/win solutions to conflict

- Discuss inventions that have made our lives easier:
 1. Encourage your child to become an inventor by imagining easier ways of doing things.
 2. Read about the lives of famous inventors such as Thomas Edison and George Washington Carver.
- Encourage your child to manage money well:
 1. Before providing an allowance, ask your child to make out a budget.
 2. Encourage your child to save towards a goal. As the child becomes older, increase the time span between setting the goal and achieving it.
 3. Discuss spending choices and priorities.
 4. If a child borrows money, develop responsibility by having them repay in an agreed upon length of time with interest.
 5. If possible, help your child set up an interest-bearing savings account. Explain the benefits of compound interest – that when the interest is left in an account, additional interest is earned on the interest!
- Help your child distinguish between natural and man-made resources:
 1. When cooking with your child, notice the natural (tomato, carrots) and man-made (jar, pan) resources used.
 2. Take a walk on the beach or in the woods and observe plants and animals that are useful to mankind. It will help them understand what is meant by natural resources.
 3. Discuss what resources were used to produce your child’s favorite clothes, toys, or food. (*Clothes use natural resources like cotton or wool, human resources in terms of the person who picks the cotton or shears the wool, capital resources such as sewing machines, and entrepreneurial resources such as the farmer who grew the natural resources and the businesspersons who founded the business that makes the clothes or the store that sells them.*) Make a game of seeing how many resources you can think of that go into producing each product.
- Introduce your child to the international marketplace:
 1. Discuss whether friends/neighbors’ cars were made in the USA or foreign countries. Make a game of finding out how many “foreign” cars actually have manufacturing plants in this country and vice versa.
 2. Help your children locate on a map/globe the countries named on clothing labels and food packages.
 3. Plan two meals – one made with ingredients found in the US and another made with ingredients found in other countries.
- Help your child understand more about taxes:
 1. In our federal system, we pay taxes at the federal, state and local level. Help your child know the difference.
 2. Visit a public library, zoo, park, fire station, or police station. Explain that individual families cannot pay for these goods and services. Taxes allow governments to provide these goods and services.
 3. When shopping, show your child that the total cost is the purchase price and the sales tax.
- Encourage your child to become an entrepreneur:

1. Buy a new product and discuss how someone started with an idea, then went through the process to produce and sell the product.
2. Encourage your child to think innovatively. Challenge them to think of new products that could solve problems.

Be creative as you think of ways to involve parents. Teachers may also want to review this list for classroom tips.