

## Saving can be child's play – Alvin Hall's Top Tips

TV's independent financial expert Alvin Hall says "Money matters can be daunting. But no matter how complicated they seem, don't put them off! There's usually a simple solution and you can always seek help and advice before things get too out of hand. Why not make your new year's resolution to get in better financial shape? My three top tips for saving with your child are:

### 1. Save little and often

Most people mistakenly make saving a last priority. But an easy way to save regularly is by setting up an automatic transfer into your child's Child Trust Fund account of, say, £10 a month.

### 2. Help your child understand the value of money

Even when they're very little, you can still gently help your children understand the value of money – for example, shop together and use cash rather than credit.

### 3. Know how and in what ways to involve your family in money matters

Birthday money for your child from yourself or a family member is a fantastic way to help build a nest egg for your child.

Visit [www.childtrustfund.gov.uk](http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk) for information on where to go for help and advice."



Child Trust Fund

**Child Trust Fund Week**  
**January 15th to 20th**



## First steps to helping your little ones understand the value of money - TV's Sheree Murphy shares her tips for Child Trust Fund Week

- The 'tooth fairy' can provide a great opportunity to talk about saving. When your children find money underneath their pillow, encourage them to put it safely into a piggy bank and save it. It's never too early to get into the savings habit.
- My daughter Ruby and I love to play shop at home, and I use it as an opportunity to gently help develop her numeracy skills. She uses her purse and toy money and we count the money together for the items we exchange in our 'shop,' singing fun songs about counting while we play.
- Children love being involved in real shopping trips. I often get money from the cash point and let the children help. Then I let them see me exchanging the money for goods and we count the change together.
- Finally, Harry (Kewell) and I explain what the Child Trust Fund is in a way that Ruby can understand - that it's important to add in money so that when she's older there will be enough saved to help pay for something like driving lessons or a deposit for a house.
- The great thing about the Child Trust Fund is that you, your friends and family can top it up by as much as £1,200 a year. A good way to do this is to put money from birthdays or other special occasions into the account.
- If you haven't done so yet, Child Trust Fund Week is the perfect time to find your Child Trust Fund voucher and open an account. The sooner you open the account, the sooner your child's money can start to grow.
- Log onto [www.childtrustfund.gov.uk](http://www.childtrustfund.gov.uk) for further information on the Child Trust Fund and Child Trust Fund Week.



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