

# How can I teach my preschooler that gifts do not have to cost money?

Children often assume that people must buy gifts at a store. However, many gifts that children can make at home do not cost any money. Doing something fun with someone can be a special gift. Helping someone with a chore can be a gift as well.

## A Gift Card

Materials needed:

- Plain paper or construction paper
- Pencils, pens, crayons, or markers

Step 1: Explain what you will be doing together (read through entire activity before you begin)

The two of you will make a gift card for a special person. Explain that this card is a promise to do something with the person later. Have your child think of a friend or family member to give a gift card to.



*A gift card is a promise to do something with someone later.*

Step 2: Think together

**Choice A:** Talk with your child about what the special person likes to do for fun. Ask if your child would like to do any of these fun activities with the person later. Examples:



*Think about chores a person might like help with.*

- Get a backrub
- Talk with visitors
- Make a healthy snack
- Walk in a favorite park
- Play a game
- Share photographs
- Draw or color pictures
- Sing songs

**Choice B:** Talk with your child about the chores this person might like help with. Ask if your child would like to do any of these chores with the person later.

Examples:

- Walk the dog
  - Fold clean clothes
  - Bag newspapers for recycling
  - Dust furniture
  - Weed a garden
- (continued)

### Step 3: Make the gift card

Have your child draw a picture of the fun activity or chore on the card. Label the drawing and help your child sign the card. If possible, take your child to deliver the card in person. (You can give your child a gift card that you made in advance as an example.)

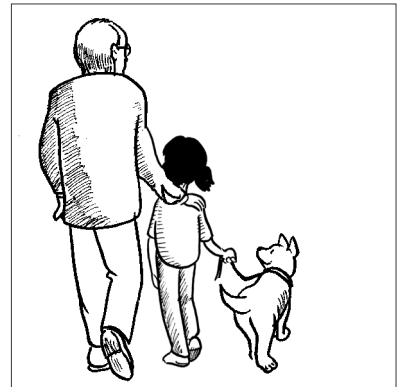
#### Ideas to talk about

- ★ Sharing time or work is a special gift because of our love for another person and the fun of being together.
- ★ Doing something for someone can feel as good as having someone do something for you.
- ★ Family members do things for each other every day without being paid.
- ★ People in the neighborhood also do things for each other for free.  
Examples: Giving a friend a ride in a car, coaching a sports team.

#### ◇ ◇ ◇ Notes ◇ ◇ ◇

Make sure that your child does what the gift card promises. Encourage the person who gets the card to ask your child for the gift within a couple of weeks. This will show your child the value of the gift.

Find more “How can I teach my preschooler about money” activities at [www.creditunion.coop](http://www.creditunion.coop).



*Make sure your child keeps the gift card promise.*

