

## Fun Winter Reading

February 19, 2010



By reading aloud with our kids, we can boost their interest in reading and their fundamental literacy skills, including reading ability and comprehension, vocabulary, listening comprehension, attention span, and ability to articulate thoughts. Being read to by an adult also helps build a kid's self-esteem and confidence.

We have gathered some fun stories you can add to your reading list that can expand your kids' awareness and ideas about spending money wisely.

Mmmm, spending — one of our favorite topics (and did we mention, one of our favorite pastimes?).

### When To Do It

Bedtime or a quiet hour before dinner

### What To Do

Here are three storybooks to share with your kids — all focused on spending lessons.

1. **Title:** *You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime*, by Harriet Ziefert

**Ages:** 4 and older

**Not at your library?** [Amazon Link](#)

**What it's all about:** Your young reader will follow the story of Pete, a dinosaur-loving boy who saves up to buy himself a toy dinosaur. Pete uses all his savings for the new toy. Then he realizes that although he loves his new dinosaur, he is also sad to not have any money in his bank jar. With the help of interactive questions, you can help your kids relate to the story and learn simple basics about spending money.

2. **Title:** *The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense* by Stan and Jan Berenstain

**Ages:** 4 to 8

**Not at your library?** [Amazon link](#)

**What it's all about:** Like most kids, Brother and Sister Bear sure know how to spend money. Whether it's for ice cream or balloons, they can go through their allowance before they know it's gone. But what they don't know is how to manage their money. This story will teach your kids that there is nothing wrong with spending money, but it's always smart to understand the value of money and how to save it. The book also includes tear-out checks that kids can use, just like in the book!

3. **Title:** *Bunny Money* by Rosemary Wells

**Ages:** 3 to 8

**Not at your library?** [Amazon Link](#)

**What it's all about:** The beloved bunnies Max and Ruby have saved enough money to buy a present for their grandma's birthday. Ruby already has an idea of what they want to buy, but Max has other ideas. One thing leads to another, until they've spent most of their money but still haven't bought a gift! In the end it all works out, and Grandma is extremely pleased with the gifts she receives from her favorite grandchildren. See what your kids think about how Ruby planned and saved enough money to buy something she wanted, how to spend money wisely (unlike Max), and how you can spend too much money without realizing it.

### What You Will Need

Visit your local library or bookstore if you do not have copies of the suggested books.

### Talk About It

After reading any one of the books with your kids, can they think of ways they have seen money spent well? Spent poorly? Is there anything they have ever bought and later decided they did not like anymore? If so, do they know why?

