

Test

Name: _____

Directions: Circle the prompt your teacher has assigned:

Prompt: Write to state your position on whether or not kids should be paid for chores.

Advanced Prompt: The debate over whether children should earn money for completing household chores has been going on for many years. State your argument on whether children should earn money for chores completed inside the home. Make sure to use the ideas and information from the text set in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- read the passages;
- plan your essay;
- write your essay; and
- revise and edit your essay.

Be sure to:

- include a claim;
- address counterclaims;
- use evidence from multiple sources; and
- avoid overly relying on one source.

Your written response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay.

Remember to spend time reading, planning, writing, revising, and editing. Write your response in the space provided.

Your essay should be 5 paragraphs long. Each middle paragraph should be 10-12

I _____

R1 _____

a. _____

b. _____

R2 _____

a. _____

b. _____

R3 _____

C _____



Chores Suitable for Kids of all Ages

1 Children of all ages are capable of completing chores. Many families expect their children to be involved in the household tasks necessary to make a house a home. Chores are important for building self-reliance in children as well as creating a shared community within the home. Lessons that are learned from taking on chores are invaluable. It's important to remember that all children mature at different times; therefore, the ages below are simply suggestions.

Toddlers

2 Children as young as two can be expected to participate in the daily jobs typical in most homes. Television programs like Sesame Street and Barney have episodes relaying appropriate activities for young children. Picking up toys and putting them in a basket or toybox is a great start for a toddler. Making this activity into a game or singing a song to learn the routine are highly desirable ways to get this age group on board. Another good activity for toddlers is putting clothes, like socks and shorts, away in dresser drawers. This simple act prepares young children for more advanced laundry chores.

3 Of course, no matter what the chore is for this age group, all activities should be done while under direct supervision. Leaving toddlers alone for any amount of time can be dangerous. Even after the child has shown capabilities of following the expectations independently, the dangers that can occur are not worth the skill that is being taught.

Elementary Age

4 As children grow physically and mentally, more and more tasks can be handed down. Elementary age children can be expected to participate more frequently. Sorting clothes for the wash is one task that can be accomplished fairly easily by this age. Colors are recognizable and distinguishing between fabrics comes naturally. Dusting, vacuuming, and helping with dishes are all possible chores that can be added for children between the ages of 5 to 10 years old. Keeping the house tidy and clear of messes is a skill that will carry over into adulthood if done correctly. Assisting in the preparation of meals is also appropriate for this age group. They are able to find items in the pantry, stir ingredients, and even read labels for instructions. Although games and songs may not be effective at this age, creating a chart with explicit instructions provides an incentive to stay engaged.

Teenagers

5 Once a child has reached the teenage years, most household chores and expectations are suitable. Cleaning, cooking, and caring for younger siblings should be expected as children mature. It is helpful to create a sense of independence and pride in the work that is done by this age group. Raising the bar of acceptable outcomes establishes a set of criteria to prepare them for life after high school. By this age, children are equal partners in maintaining a home and need to feel appreciation for jobs well done. They have moved on from stars on a chart to an intrinsic motivation to feel needed by all members of the family.

"Chores Suitable for Kids of all Ages" written for educational purposes.



Chores Aren't for Money!

6 In today's society, adults often criticize children for being entitled. They say that children expect things to be handed out and make unfair demands. The character **Veruca Salt**¹ from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* is a perfect example of this. In the novel, Veruca makes many demands of her father, refuses to take responsibility for her actions, and has a demeanor that proves she only cares about herself. Although this character is the extreme, she is the embodiment of what is considered an entitled child. Some adults believe that paying children for household chores would create more Veruca Salts in the world.

7 These adults believe that children may expect money, or other forms of compensation, anytime something is done around the house. Taking care of the house – whether it is putting away dishes, sorting laundry, or feeding the family pet – should be expected by every family member. Living in a home is not a job and should not be reimbursed as one. “If parents pay their kids to do chores, what happens if their children decide the money isn’t worth the effort of doing chores anymore?” states Kerry Flatley, mom blogger for *Self-Sufficient Kids*. “Then the parents are stuck. Because then the only options parents are left with are letting their kids stop doing chores or increasing the amount of money they pay their kids to do chores. And neither of those is a great option.” Imagine asking children to pick something up off the floor and they demand to be paid to do it, or they won’t help. It is clearly not helping families bond as a unit. Instead, families become employer-employee relationships. Author and child advocate Ron Lieber agrees with this premise. He argues that “we shouldn’t give allowances in exchange for chores because one day our kids will decide they don’t need the money and refuse to do the work.” The only difference between the relationship created is that in a real job you can be fired for not working. A child can’t be fired.

8 Money isn’t the only form of payment kids may expect. Just as Veruca Salt demanded her father cater to her every whim by purchasing anything she wanted, children may begin to do the same just for helping out around the house. Making one’s bed means the new video game. Hanging up a towel after a shower means a new pair of sneakers. Feeding Fido is equivalent to AirPods. Each of these is a ridiculous request. However, some parents feel that by reimbursing children for completing chores, these demands will become more and more commonplace.

9 This doesn’t mean a child can’t earn money. Daily, weekly, or monthly chores should be expectations, but earning money can be done by going above and beyond those expectations. Children need to be inventive to figure out activities that are important enough to earn some extra money. If they really want to earn a new gadget, they need to work for it outside of their normal tasks. If children work for their money, they will learn to value the money that much more. Veruca Salt needs to stay a fictional character, so paying for chores isn’t worth it.

¹ Veruca Salt – fictional character in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl

“Chores Aren't for Money!” written for educational purposes.



The Great Chore Debate

Pro

10 Children need to learn the value of money. That is impossible to do without earning money on a regular basis. Although some parents believe a set allowance is sufficient for teaching money-saving skills, others disagree. They feel that just as an employee performs a service for a weekly paycheck, children should be required to do the same.

11 **Financial literacy**² starts in the home. Children should be taught how to earn money, save money, and be responsible with the money that is spent. There is no doubt that children who have the skills to manage their money early are more prepared for becoming financially stable adults. Experts agree that learning how to make decisions when it comes to saving and spending money as young children is vital in preparing for the future. Parents should start this process as early as possible. Teaching children to work hard for money and spend wisely are skills that come when being paid for doing chores.

12 Rewards are often used as positive reinforcements in order to repeat desirable behaviors. There is no stronger reward than money for any age, especially children. When children desire a new toy, completing a specific task to earn money toward that object instills a sense of pride once it is purchased. On the same note, consequences can be given by not providing money for not doing the task. If the chore is not completed, money is not provided. The most basic principle to understanding financial literacy is that a person must have money before it can be saved or spent. The harder one works, the more money it is possible to earn.

Con

13 On the other hand, paying for chores will not help build and sustain fundamental internal values of motivation. Eventually, the chores necessary to help out around the house will no longer be a positive feeling of accomplishment but a means to an end. Once that motivation has faltered, there is no way to establish personal rewards of doing something helpful for someone else.

14 Not to mention, as children age, time with peers or playing video games becomes more important than a few dollars every now and then. Being a team player in the house isn't enough. Tying the chore to cash will only muddle the purpose of the chore. That chore is no longer a requirement to live successfully but rather an inconvenience to having fun. The chore may just not get done, may get done haphazardly, or more money will be necessary for the child to do the work. It is a lose-lose scenario.

² Financial literacy – the ability to understand and properly apply financial management skills like understanding the value of money.

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