

## 18 Handy Tips for Family Education

### Tip 12: When kids spend money carelessly? (Dialogue Script)

Docudrama 1: DON'Ts	
Siu-yee:	Mum, I need money to add value for my Octopus Card.
Mother:	Already used up? I've just given you \$200 two days ago.
Siu-yee:	Yes, but I bought food for classmates yesterday and bought a pencil case as well.
Father:	You're so generous! You bought food for classmates? You think we're that rich?
Mother:	Yeah, and you already have several pencil cases. Still need more?
Siu-yee:	That one looks really nice.
Father:	You have to buy it just because it looks nice? You think you're from a billionaire family? Mum and Dad work so hard to earn a living. And you just buy things you love. You can't be like that.
Mother:	OK, leave it. Stop scolding her. I'm going to give you \$200. But remember to spend carefully. Don't waste it.
Father:	Oh my God! How can you teach her like that?
Mother:	OK, you're so great. Why don't you teach her?
Expert Advice	
Prof. Wong Po-choi:	Why would kids waste money? It's because they get money whenever they ask their parents. So they wouldn't think of spending less. When money comes from parents, it doesn't hurt to waste it. How do we teach kids to spend carefully? That's simple. Teach them to manage their own money. Even if they overspend, parents should stick to their principle. Don't give them more. Just let them suffer a bit, then their money intelligence would be enhanced.
Docudrama 2: DOs	
Mother:	You already have several pencil cases. Still need more?
Siu-yee:	That one looks really nice.
Father:	Sweetie, come here. I want to talk to you. Do you know how much you spend each month?
Siu-yee:	No, I don't.
Father:	OK, I'm telling you a piece of good news. Now you're not a baby

anymore. Mum and Dad are going to give you pocket money every week, so that you can learn to spend and manage your own money.

Siu-yee: Great! So I can spend on whatever I like?

Father: No, you can't. You're still young. Mum and Dad work hard to support the family. You should discuss with us before buying anything. When you grow up and begin to have a job, you can decide how to spend your own money.

Siu-yee: OK, no problem.

Father: You should also record your expenses. If you don't ask us before you spend or overspend, then you'll have to make it up with your "lai-see money". OK. Let's make a budget first. Tell me, how much do you spend on transport every day?