



# A Penny Saved

After watching the *JA Ourselves* Lesson 4 volunteer video session, reinforce the learning in the lesson by having your child make a bank.

## Materials

- Empty plastic container with lid or shoe box
- Colored paper or gift wrap
- Safety scissors and crayons
- Blank paper and pencil
- Magazines and glue (optional)
- Coins

## Activity

On her own or with help from a parent, other caring adult, or older sibling, your child should:

- Find an empty container with a plastic lid, or a small empty box with a lid. Cover the container or box with paper. Use decorated (gift wrap) paper or color or decorate the paper herself. She can get fancy and decorate it like an animal. Many videos online show how.
- Cut a slot in the lid big enough to put coins in.
- On a piece of paper, draw or write the things she would like to save for. She might cut and paste pictures from magazines. These will be her savings goals. Keep them near the bank. Use the blank side of the paper to keep track of the coins she puts in the bank.
- Go on a hunt through the house to find loose coins, or ask someone to share some coins with her. What might she do around the house to earn spare change?

When your child has finished her savings goals page and bank, and she has some coins to put in her bank, talk about the value and name of each of the different coins. She can make piles of equal coins, such as 10 pennies and 1 dime, or 2 dimes and 1 nickel.

Have her drop her coins into the bank and keep track of how much money she is saving. For example, when she puts in a dime, she can write 10¢ on the back of her savings goal page and add up the money to know how much she has in her bank. Once she has reached her goal, have her count the money again, then help her buy the item she saved for.

**Parents:** Having a savings goal helps children understand the importance of saving money. Help them make goals at first that are specific and easily achievable, like a comic book or a trip to buy ice cream.

Seeing their goals achieved quickly will encourage them to save for bigger items in the future, like a baseball mitt or musical instrument.