

TAKE
A SIDE

Debate



Should Kids Be Paid to Do Chores?

Lacey says she should earn big bucks for doing chores. Her mom isn't so sure. Who makes the better argument?

Directions: Read both letters. Then complete the chart on the next page.

Dear Mom,

You know how you and Dad are totally stressed out? And you know how I'm always begging you for money? Well, I have the perfect solution to both problems: You can pay me to help around the house. Brilliant idea, right?



Each week, I will make my bed, set the table, sweep the kitchen floor, and take Ralphie on his morning walk—all for the bargain price of \$10 a week. And if there are weeks when you need me to do more, I will be happy to, for a slightly higher charge.

This plan will make your life easier. And it will also help me. I read that kids who do chores often do better in school because they learn to be responsible. I'll have to get up earlier in the morning and organize my time better. I also read that getting an allowance helps kids learn how to manage their money. So what do you think?



I'm ready to start right now!

Lacey



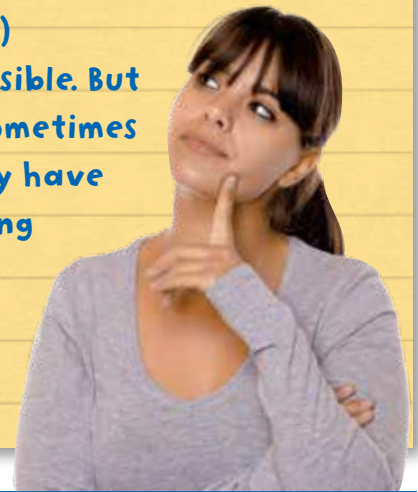
Dear Lacey,

The answer is YES! Dad and I are thrilled that you will now be helping us keep our house clean, the kitchen organized, and Ralphie walked. You are absolutely old enough to begin taking on more responsibility, and good for you for stepping up and offering to pitch in.

But Dad and I won't be paying you to do this work. Nobody pays Dad to do our laundry and take out the garbage and mop the floors. And I'd be a millionaire if I got paid every time I did the dishes or made lasagna or drove you and your brother to school. Chores are a part of family life, and we all need to pitch in to keep our house clean and organized. (And poor Ralphie needs his walks!)

Doing chores will teach you about being responsible. But it will also teach you another important lesson: Sometimes we do jobs not for a reward, but because we simply have to do them. Actually, you will get a reward for doing your chores—the smiles on your parents' faces! Isn't that worth at least 10 bucks?

Love, Mom



Should Lacey get paid for doing chores?

GET AN
ACTIVITY
ONLINE

Lacey and her mom both give reasons that support their arguments. Find three reasons in each letter and write them on the lines below. Then decide who wins and explain your decision.

Lacey's reasons

Mom's reasons

Who wins?
