

2

Set a SMART Goal

Lesson 2.3.2 · Turning a wish into a plan

I CAN
turn a vague saving idea into a goal with a number and a date.

Compare these two: *"I want to save money."* and *"I will save \$35 by October 15 by putting aside \$5 every Saturday."* Only one of them will happen.

SMART	WHAT IT MEANS	MY GOAL
Specific	Exactly what am I saving for?	
Measurable	How many dollars?	
Achievable	Can I really put that much aside?	
Relevant	Do I actually care about this?	
Time-bound	By what date?	

My goal amount

How much I can save each week

Weeks needed (goal ÷ weekly)

My finish date

Answers and talking points

What a good answer looks like, and one question to ask when the pencils go down.

3-5 What a good answer looks like

The goal is the student's own, so there is no key for the right-hand column — but there is a test. **Read their five answers back as one sentence.** If it sounds like the second example on the sheet (“I will save \$35 by October 15 by putting aside \$5 every Saturday”), it works. If it sounds like the first (“I want to save money”), something is still missing, and it is almost always **Measurable** or **Time-bound**.

Ask: “Which letter was hardest to fill in?” Nearly everyone says Achievable, because it is the first time the plan has to survive contact with their actual allowance.

3-5 The math at the bottom

Goal amount ÷ weekly saving = weeks needed, then count that many weeks forward for the finish date. A \$35 goal at \$5 a week is **7 weeks. Round weeks up, never down** — six and a half weeks means seven Saturdays. If their finish date lands after the date they wrote under Time-bound, the plan does not work yet, and fixing it is the lesson.

Ask: “What would you change — the amount, the weekly saving, or the date?” All three are legitimate. Choosing between them is budgeting.

Want the rest of the unit?

This page is one activity, unchanged, from **Unit 2.3 — The Saving System**, a Financial Foundations™ unit of 10 to 12 lessons with teacher scripts, family letters and a unit checkpoint. For a free five-day money game your students can play in a browser, try **The \$100 Week™**. Everything is at wealthwisekids.org.