

It is always better to get on top of your finances now and do some planning as it will definitely make life a great deal easier in future years for you and your family.

Planning for Baby's Future - Your Financial Responsibilities

Now that you're parents, another human being will be dependent on you for all of his or her needs for at least the next eighteen years.

Check out more great articles on gift giving on our [Gift Blog](#)

- [Gifts](#)
- [Baby](#)
- [Chocolate](#)
- [Corporate](#)
- [Kids](#)
- [Sympathy](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Women](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Relationships](#)

Hugs and kisses are free, but other things such as food, clothing, housing, medical care, and education cost money-lots of it. To raise one child from birth to age eighteen will cost an average of nearly \$100,000. That figure covers just the basic necessities through high school, but many parents today want more for their children.

At age five, when most children begin school, the costs of child rearing begin to escalate. About forty percent of the total expense of raising a child occurs between the ages of twelve and seventeen, which is good news for early planners who will benefit by beginning a savings program when their children are preschoolers.

Now is the time to arm yourself with information about how to prepare for your family's future and to begin the steps to turn your plans into reality.

Begin by determining your financial condition. Before you can plan intelligently for your child's future, it's necessary to have a firm grasp of your present financial situation. It's impossible to plan for the future if you don't know what's going on now.

Figuring out your net worth can be a very revealing exercise. Draw a line down the center of a piece of paper. Label assets on the left side and list them; include cash in checking and savings accounts, equity



Clear outstanding debts before you start saving (unless you are paying less interest on your debts than you are on your savings) It is amazing how much extra cash can be found just by switching providers of items such as; phone, gas, electricity, car insurance, home insurance, credit cards, personal loans and mortgages (remember to check for any penalties).

[AA Gifts and Baskets](#) provides gift bargains in all our articles and newsletters featured in topic categories:

New Gift Ideas

- [Wedding Gift Baskets](#)
- [Thank You Gift Baskets](#)
- [Sympathy Gift Baskets](#)
- [Housewarming Gifts](#)
- [Get Well Gifts](#)
- [Congratulations Gifts](#)
- [Birthday Gift Baskets](#)
- [Baby Gift Baskets](#)
- [Anniversary Gift Baskets](#)
- [Kids Gift Ideas](#)
- [Gifts for Women](#)
- [Gifts for Men](#)
- [Candy Bouquets](#)
- [Chocolate Gifts](#)
- [Cheesecakes](#)
- [Gourmet Gifts](#)
- [Corporate Gift Baskets](#)
- [Coffee & Tea Baskets](#)
- [Spa Gift Baskets](#)
- [Golf Gift Baskets](#)
- [Popcorn Gift Tins](#)
- [Fruit & Nut Gifts](#)

in owner-occupied real estate, bonds, stocks, cars and investment real estate.

Under liabilities on the right side, list mortgages outstanding, installment loans for cars, appliances or furniture, revolving credit card balances for department stores, and professional services such as medical and dental. Include past due accounts and charity donations.

Then add up each column. If you subtract your liabilities from your assets, you'll have your net worth. Don't worry if your figures aren't precise, just the fact that you're sitting down with pen, paper, and calculator makes it all the more likely that you'll take firm action when planning your child's financial future.

Making a simple monthly budget to determine how you are spending your income can be another eye-opener. By listing your income and your spending, you can highlight the areas where changes can be made. For example, you may be surprised to find out how much you spend on long distance phone calls or how often you eat out. Seeing those figures in black and white may spur you to reduce your expenditures, and channel the money to your savings account instead.

Baby Diaper Bag Gift Set



We've used a practical container to hold this fun gift set for baby. A small diaper bag is filled to the brim with essentials for the new baby - a plush bear sits next to a flannel baby blanket, picture frame, baby rattle, gel teether, "Baby Sleeping" door pillow hanger, baby manicure set, comb & brush set, three piece terry washcloth set, an adorable rubber ducky and gentle baby wash. Choose pink, blue or teal accessories at checkout.

Price: \$ 47.00

[Buy Now](#)