

MONEY MADE EASY



**A FUN GUIDE TO
UNDERSTANDING MONEY**

**SPECIAL
EDITION**



Hello, Super Savers!

We at Elevate Credit Union are so excited to bring you this special book, all about money and how to manage it like a pro! We hope it helps you learn all about saving, spending wisely, and making smart financial decisions.

Remember, money doesn't grow on trees (wouldn't that be cool?!), but with the right skills, you can make it work for you! Whether you're saving for something special or just curious about how money works, this book will give you the tools to become a money-smart champion.

Enjoy the journey, and happy learning!



This book belongs to:



What is Money



Money is something we use to buy the things we need or want. It can be coins, notes, or even numbers in a bank account. Let's learn how money works!

Trading (Bartering)

A long time ago, before money was invented, people used something called bartering to get what they needed. This meant trading goods or services with each other.

For example, if someone had extra apples, they might trade them for a loaf of bread. But bartering wasn't always simple—what if the person with the bread didn't want apples?



Introduction of Money

To make trading easier, people began using money. Coins and notes were small, easy to carry, and everyone accepted them. Money was much simpler than bartering!

Instead of trading apples for bread, you could sell the apples for coins and then use those coins to buy bread. Money became the middleman!

Today, we use money for almost everything—buying food, toys, games, and even paying for services like haircuts.



Introduction of Online Banking

In today's world, money doesn't always have to be physical. Thanks to online banking, you can do so much without using cash!

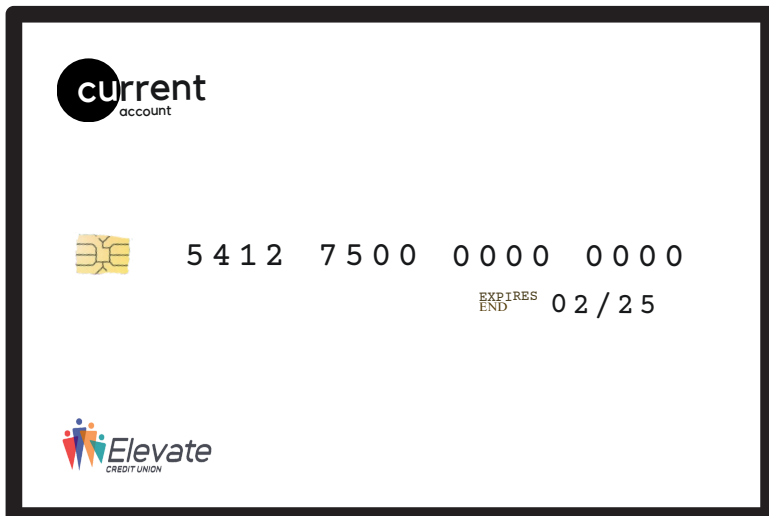


Your money is kept safely in a credit union account, which you can access online. You can pay for things quickly with a debit card or apps like Apple Pay.

Plus, you can check how much money you have anytime by logging into your account on a phone or computer.

Online banking is important because it's fast, safe, and super convenient. It also helps you keep track of your savings and spending!

Can you design your own card



What Would You Trade

LET'S TRADE



What I gave

What I got

What I gave

What I got

What I gave

What I got

What I gave

What I got

Importance of Saving



Learn Good Habits

Saving teaches you how to:

Be Patient: Instead of spending right away, you wait for something better.

Be Responsible: You learn how to manage your money wisely.

Be Ready for Surprises

Life is full of surprises, and some of them cost money! Whether it's fixing something that breaks or helping a friend, having savings means you're always ready for the unexpected.



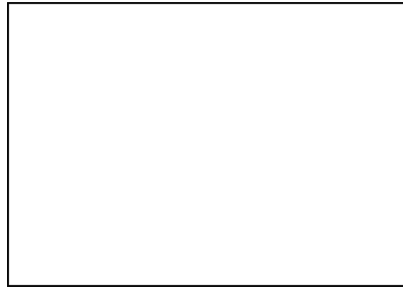
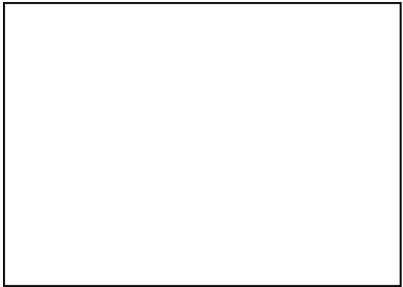
Encourages Independence

When you earn your own money, you don't have to rely on others to buy you everything.

You can make decisions about how to use your money, which makes you feel independent and grown-up.

What would you like to save up for?

Draw and color 2 wants and 2 needs



Draw a poster to encourage your friends to save



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drawing a poster to encourage friends to save.

What is a Loan?

A loan is like borrowing a toy from a friend. You promise to give it back after you've played with it for a little while. But instead of toys, grown-ups borrow money to buy things they need and pay it back later.

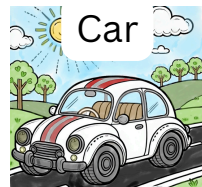
Why do people take out loans?

Sometimes, people need money for really big or important things, like:

1. Buying a car to drive to work.
2. Fixing their house so it stays nice and warm.
3. To help pay for school

Let's match the right loan to the right purchase!

5,000€



500€



15,000€



The Importance of Repaying Loans

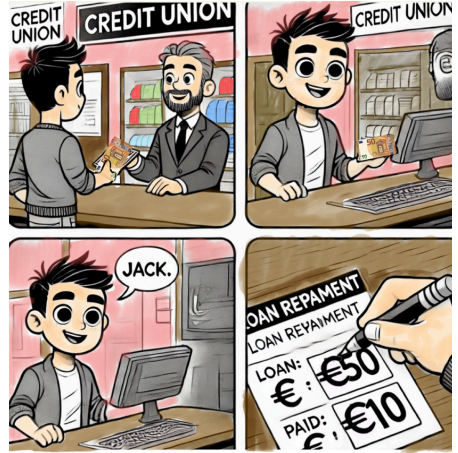
Why Is Repaying Important?

When you borrow money, it's like a promise you make to give it back bit by bit. Repaying loans is important because:

1. It shows you are responsible and trustworthy.
2. It helps you borrow again in the future if you need to.
3. It teaches you how to manage money, little by little.

Imagine you borrow a friend's toy. If you give it back when you said you would, your friend will trust you with their toys again.

Borrowing money works the same way!



How to Decide: Save or Borrow?

Before you borrow money, think carefully. Here are some questions to help you decide:

Do I Really Need This Right Now?

But if it's something you can wait for, saving up might be a better choice.

Do I Have Enough to Pay It Back?

For example: If you borrow €20 and pay back €5 a week, it will take 4 weeks to repay. Can you handle that?

What's the Best Option for Me?

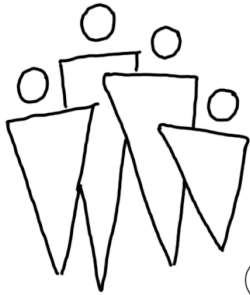
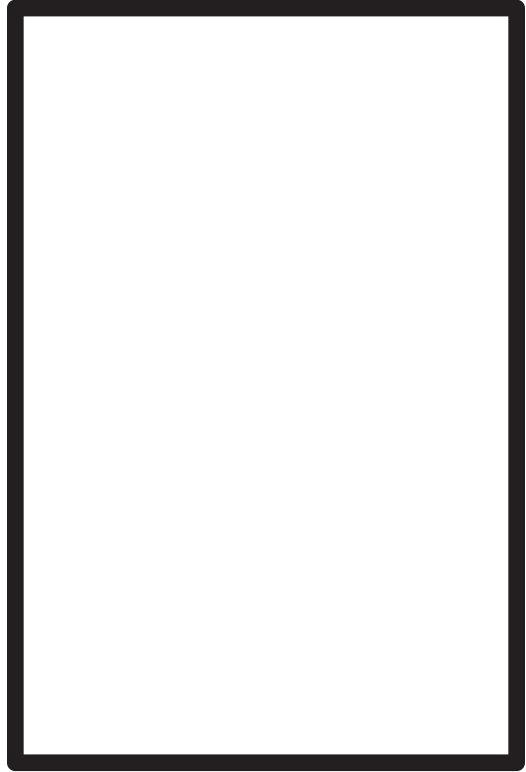
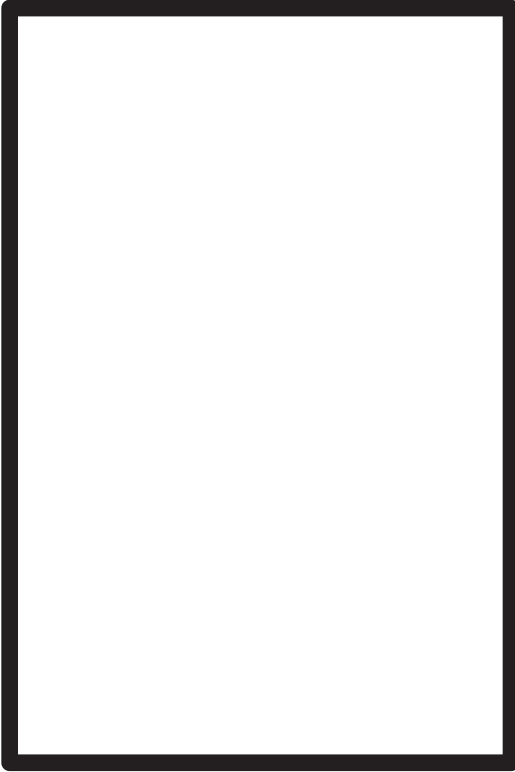
Save: If you can wait and slowly put aside money, saving teaches you patience.

Borrow: If you need something sooner and can repay bit by bit, borrowing responsibly can help.



What to Save and What to Borrow

Draw and Colour what you think are needs and wants.



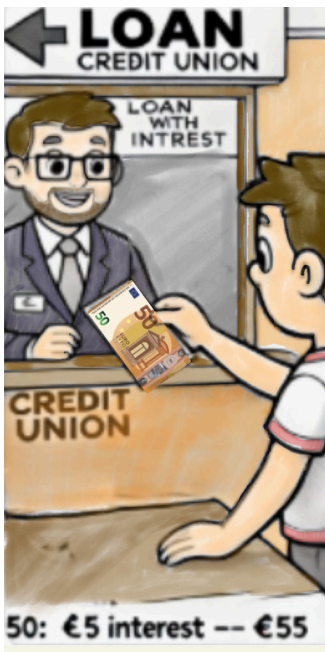
ELEVATE

CREDIT UNION

Understanding interest rates

What is interest on a loan?

When you borrow money from a credit union or bank, you agree to pay back a little extra. That extra is called interest. It's like a "thank you" for letting you borrow their money.



Why do we pay interest

The credit union uses its money to help lots of people buy things they need, like bikes, toys, or even houses.

When we pay interest, it helps the credit union lend money to others too.

How does it work

Let's say you borrow €50 to buy a scooter, and the interest is €5. That means you'll pay back a total of €55 to the credit union.

Loan: €50

Interest: €5

Total Repayment: €55

Things to remember

Borrow Only What You Need: Don't borrow more money than you can pay back.

Pay Back on Time: If you don't repay your loan on time, the interest might get bigger!

Save When You Can: Saving money means you don't have to borrow as much, which saves you from paying too much interest.

Money in the Real World

What Do We Use Money For?

Buying Things We Need:

Like food, clothes, and school supplies.

Buying Things We Want:

Like toys, games, or trips to fun places.

Saving for the Future:

Putting money aside helps us buy big things, like a bike, or prepare for emergencies.

Helping Others:

We can use money to donate to people who need help or support good causes.



How do we earn money?

People earn money by working.

Here are some examples:

Kids: You might earn money by doing chores like cleaning your room or mowing the lawn.

Adults: They earn money by doing jobs, like being a teacher, a doctor, or working in a store.

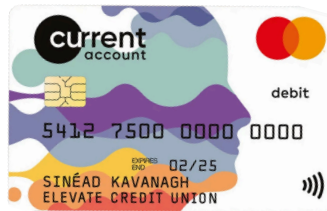


Different Ways to Use Money

Cash: Coins and notes we use to buy things directly.

Debit Cards: A card linked to a current account to pay for things.

Online Banking: Using the internet to save or spend money safely.



Why Is It Important to Be Smart With Money?

If we spend all our money at once, we might not have enough for things we really need later. That's why it's important to:

Save a Little: Always set aside some money for the future.

Think Before Spending: Ask yourself, "Do I really need this?"

Budget: Plan how much to spend, save, and share.



Understanding Needs and Wants

When it comes to spending money, it's important to know the difference between needs and wants.



Needs are things we must have to live and stay healthy. *Examples* include food, water, clothes, and a place to live. These are the things we can't go without.

Needs also include things like healthcare and transportation if they are necessary for school, work, or staying healthy. Focusing on our needs first helps ensure we're prepared and secure before spending money on other things we want.

Wants are things we would like to have, but we can live without them. *Examples* include toys, video games, fancy shoes, or trips to the cinema. These are fun to have, but they aren't necessary.

It's okay to spend on wants sometimes, but saving for them makes it even more rewarding! Always take care of your needs first.



Knowing the difference helps us make smarter choices with our money. For example, if you only have €10, you might need to buy lunch (a need) instead of spending it on sweets (a want).

By focusing on your needs first, you make sure you have enough for the important things in life!

Current Account



What is a Current Account?

A current account is a type of account where you can keep your money safe and use it when you need it. It comes with helpful features like:

Debit Card: A small card you can use to pay for things in shops or online instead of using cash.

Online Banking: A way to check your account, pay bills, or transfer money from your phone or computer.

Easy Access: You can withdraw money at any time from an ATM or use it to pay directly with your debit card.

Why is it useful?

A current account makes it easy to manage your money without carrying a lot of cash around. It also helps you keep track of what you spend.

Budgeting



What is a Budget?

A budget is a plan for how you will use your money. It helps you decide:

How much to spend: Pay for things you need and want.

How much to save: Put some money aside for the future.

How much to share: Help others or donate to a good cause.

How to Make a Budget:

Know Your Income: Write down how much money you have or earn.

List Your Expenses: Write down the things you need to pay for, like food, school supplies, or clothes.


Set Your Goals: Decide how much you want to save or spend on things you enjoy.

Stick to Your Plan: Only spend what you've planned for, and check your progress regularly.



MONTHLY BUDGET

MONTH: _____ GOALS: _____

MONEY COMING IN	AMOUNT	PRIORITIZE THINGS TO BUY/PAY
		
TOTAL:		

NEEDS	BUDGET	SPENT
TOTAL:		

WANTS	BUDGET	SPENT
TOTAL:		

SAVINGS	AMOUNT
TOTAL SAVINGS:	

SHARING	AMOUNT
TOTAL PAID:	

TOTAL BUDGET — TOTAL SPENT =

Financial Literacy Quiz

Instructions: Choose the correct answer(s) for each question by circling the letter(s). Some questions may have more than one correct answer.

What is a budget, and why is it important?

- a) *A plan for spending and saving money*
- b) *A way to keep track of income and expenses*
- c) *A way to borrow money from the bank*
- d) *Something only adults need*

If you borrow €50 and repay €5 each week, how many weeks will it take to repay the loan?

- a) *5 weeks*
- b) *10 weeks*
- c) *15 weeks*
- d) *8 weeks*

What is the difference between a need and a want?

- a) *A need is something you must have to live (e.g., food, water, shelter)*
- b) *A want is something you would like to have but is not necessary*
- c) *A want is more important than a need*
- d) *Needs and wants are the same*

What should you do if you see a message online that says, “You’ve won €1,000! Click here to claim your prize”?

- a) *Click the link immediately*
- b) *Ignore it and tell a trusted adult*
- c) *Share the message with your friends*
- d) *Delete the message*

Financial Literacy Quiz

Match the words to their definitions:

- Save: _____

- Loan: _____

- Interest: _____

- Budget: _____

- a) Money you put aside for the future
- b) Money borrowed that must be repaid
- c) A plan for how you will spend and save money
- d) Extra money you pay when borrowing a loan

If Jack wants to buy a bike that costs €100, but he only has €20, what should he do?

- a) Take a loan without thinking about repayments
- b) Save his money until he has enough
- c) Spend his €20 on something else
- d) Ask for help from a trusted adult

What is one thing you learned about staying safe with your money online?

- a) Never share your passwords
- b) Use secure websites when shopping
- c) Tell a trusted adult if something feels wrong
- d) Always click on prize-winning links



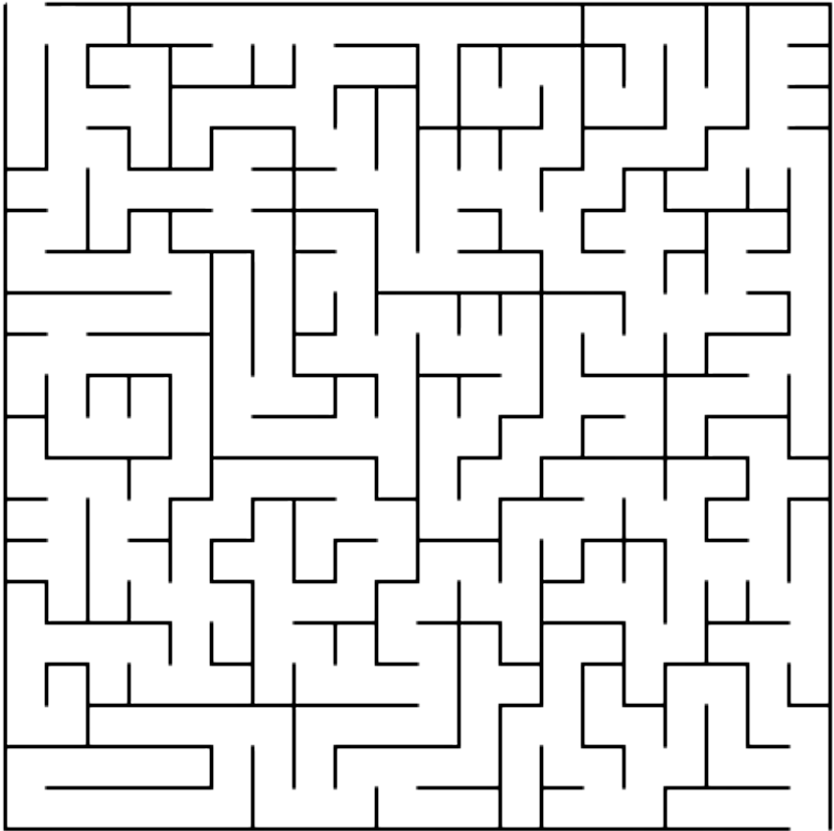
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N	C	U	P	R	T	B	A	A	I	E	G	E	S
G	N	S	E	W	C	O	R	V	N	O	R	I	L
T	D	S	N	R	O	R	T	I	E	I	E	A	N
H	M	S	D	G	I	R	E	N	N	S	N	B	A
S	E	I	I	V	N	O	R	G	E	U	I	U	N
A	T	R	N	A	S	W	I	S	R	N	L	D	S
C	E	L	G	N	A	L	N	T	M	I	N	G	O
L	I	D	O	N	I	D	G	O	O	O	O	E	G
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T	D	R	L	E	L	I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T
S	S	I	S	L	C	R	E	D	I	T	N	E	L

BARTERING
INTEREST
CASH
ELEVATE
SAVE
BUDGET
LOAN

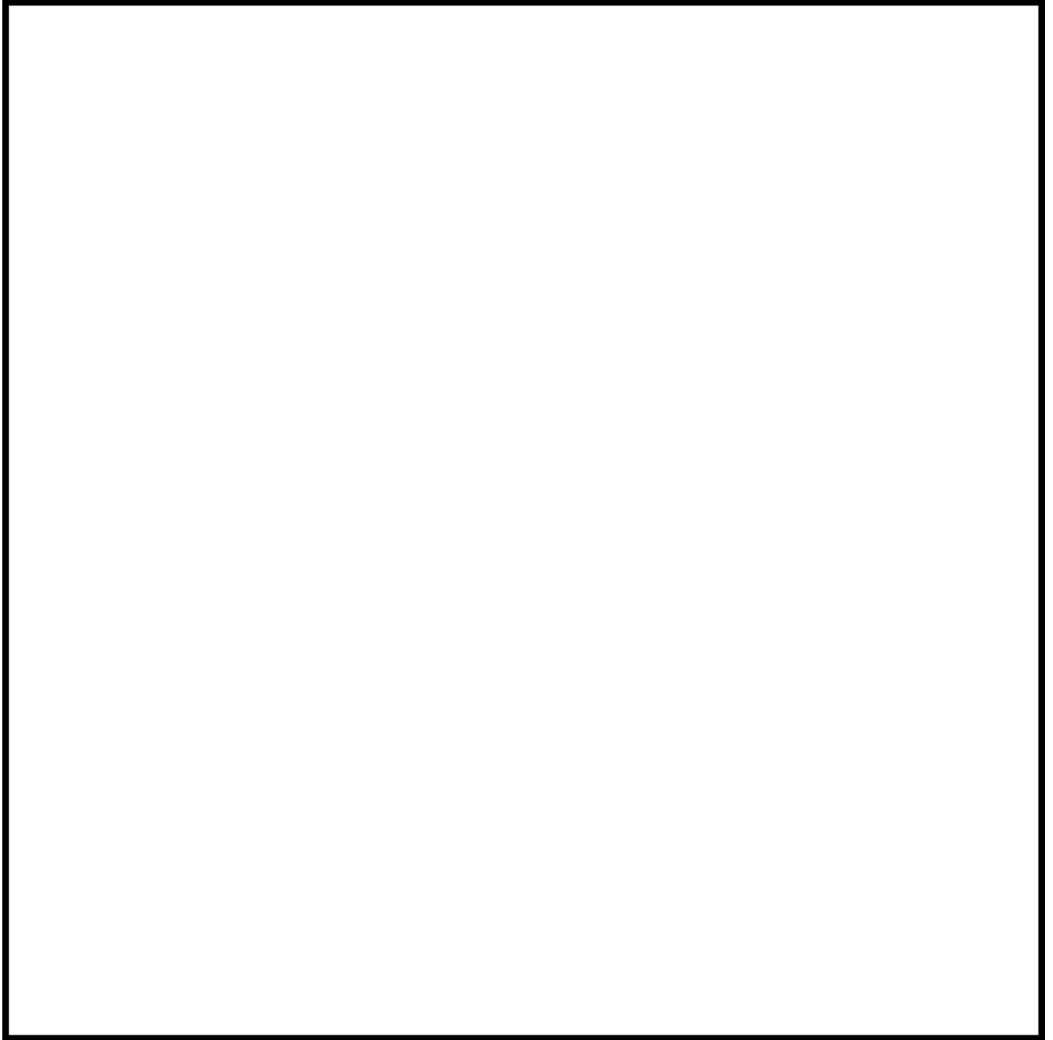
SPENDING
MONEY
SAVINGS
UNION
CREDIT
BORROW
NEEDS

GOALS
COINS
ONLINE
WANTS

Can you put Your Savings into Elevate Credit Union?



Can you Create the Elevate Credit Union New Mascot?



Name:



Jack has €30 to spend on his school supplies. Help him choose what he needs without going over his budget!

Backpack – €8

Notebook – €2

Pencil Case – €3

Pencils & Pens (Set) – €3

Eraser & Sharpener – €1

Fizzy Drink - €4

Lunchbox – €4

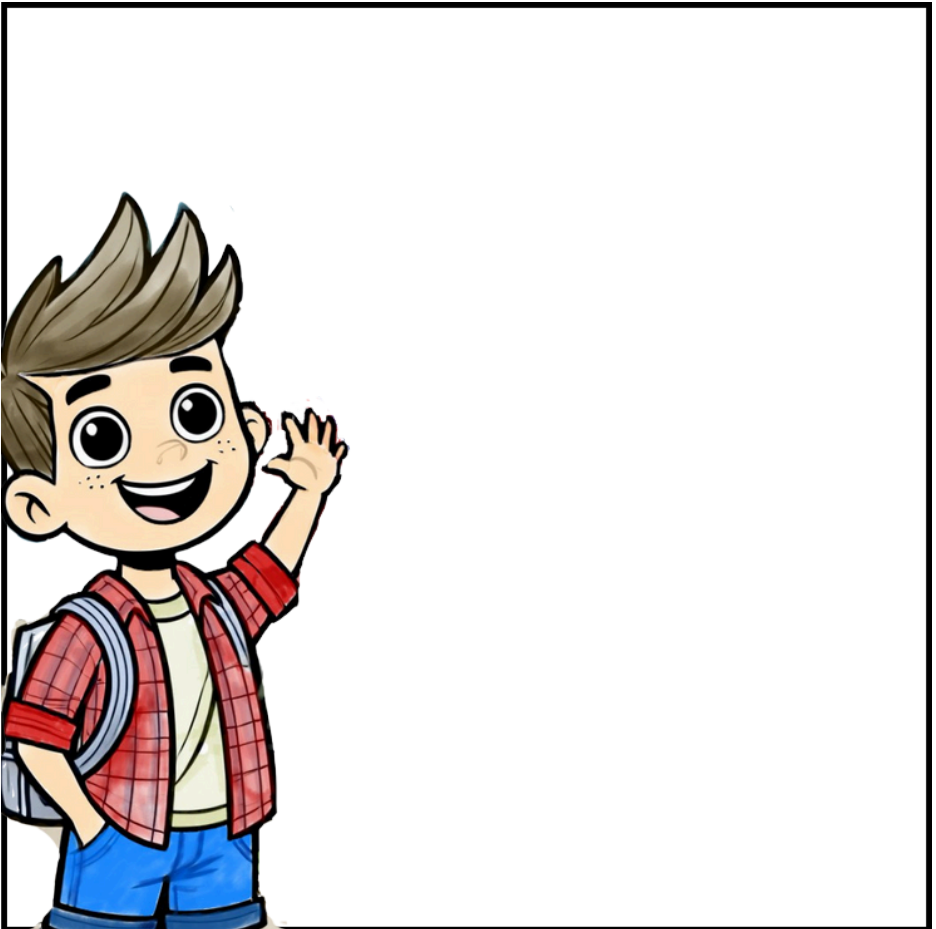
Water Bottle – €3

Ruler – €1

Glue Stick – €2

Crayons/Markers – €3

Bag of Sweets - €5

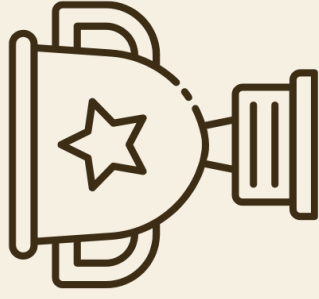


FINANCIAL LITERACY BOOK

CERTIFICATE of achievement

This award is presented to...

for finishing Elevate Credit Union
financial literacy book





Importance of Saving



Learn Good Habits
Saving teaches you how to:

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