



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

In this webisode, each member of the Secret Millionaires Club encounters a situation that seems too good to be true. Jones, for example, spends his entire allowance on a tricky carnival game in an attempt to win an expensive video game. Warren advises the kids to be rational and have good reasoning. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Encourage kids to think things through rationally.

Ask kids: Perhaps you or someone you know has encountered an experience like one of the kids in the Secret Millionaires Club that seemed too good to be true. Why should we be wary of something that promises we will get rich quick or will win something?

Help kids sharpen their money management skills.

Talk to kids about the “if something sounds too good to be true, then it likely is” concept as part of developing good financial habits. Encourage kids to make a list of ideas on how to be money smart—from saving their allowance to looking for ways to cut costs. For instance, could kids find ways to have fun at home instead of going to the movies? Or make a special handmade card for a relative’s birthday rather than buying one at the store?

Activities:

1. Find, share, and discuss examples of offers or situations that seem too good to be true. Look at classified ads and see if there’s a job that offers a chance to work from home for just a few hours and make tons of money. Sort through coupons and see if you can find one that has you buy multiple items you may not need in order to save money. Discuss how getting something with little or no effort may often come with strings attached.
2. Have kids put their skeptical smarts to work. Examine two or three ads and look for sneaky ways a company may be trying to get you to open your wallet. Will the product really do what it claims? Is it worth its value or can an alternative product be bought for less?

Tip: Get kids in the habit of thinking critically when it comes to their money. Prompt them with questions, such as: Are you still going to want an expensive sweater a month after you buy it, or would it be better to save toward a bigger goal? Are you getting a good value for your money? Remind them that once they spend their money, it’s gone, so they should be happy with their purchases.

