

Hey Kiddo!

I wanted to share some things I've learned about saving money—stuff I wish I knew when I was your age. When I became a Star Saver at Las Colinas FCU, I learned that saving money isn't just about keeping it—it's about building it. A savings account doesn't just store your money like a piggy bank. It actually helps your money grow through something called interest, which is a small amount the credit union adds to your account just for keeping it there.

When I was your age, I would deposit money in my account through Mustang Mutual— a program through the Austin Mustangs to help you learn about saving. Every dollar I deposited added up. I eventually had enough to buy something I really wanted, without having to borrow or ask for more. However, I wanted to keep accumulating interest, so I still haven't touched that account in over 13 years! I have lots of interest in my account now, making me richer than if I had taken my money out to spend.

Here's what helped me: every time you get money, try splitting it up. You could keep some to spend, but save part of it too—no matter how small. That way, when something you really care about comes along, you'll already be prepared. As an adult, I budget 50% of my money for needs, 30% for wants, and 20% savings. However, as a kid, you can put almost 100% and earn more from interest!

Saving isn't just about being perfect or never spending—it's about being ready. Whether it's for a new toy, a school trip, or something bigger later on, starting now makes a difference. It teaches you responsibility, and it gives you freedom to choose what you want later. You're already ahead just by thinking about this. Keep saving, even if it's just a little at a time. You'll be surprised what it can grow into.

Your buddy — Utkarsh “Krish” Choudhary