



The big debate

Should kids pay rent to their parents?

Some parents say children are never too young to start contributing.

What you need to know

- Rent is the money paid to live in a house or apartment when you don't own the home.
- Rent dates back thousands of years, beginning in early civilizations when people paid landowners with goods, labor, or money in exchange for farming and living on the land.
- Now, in the US, about 42.5 million households pay rent.
- Some of the most common chores for children are doing laundry, taking out the garbage, and yard work.



FLEXIBLE PAYMENT
People in medieval England often paid their rent with eels, which were a common food item at the time.

A dad in Texas went viral after sharing a video about charging his 6-year-old rent. While it wasn't "real" rent to an actual landlord—and it was only \$3—the father said he and his wife are teaching their daughter financial responsibility that will serve her well later in life. She pays them out of an allowance, which she earns by doing chores, and has to budget so she has enough rent money each month. Many people cheered for the parents, saying kids are never too young to become savvy about finances. But others said the arrangement put too much pressure on a child. What do you think? Should children pay rent to their parents?

Yes—it's a great way to learn

Having kids pay rent helps them learn money management, budgeting basics, and math. It also prepares them to handle one of the most basic responsibilities of adult life: paying for housing. Even if it's just a few dollars, rent helps kids understand the rewards of working for what we want and need in life. This will help them develop a strong work ethic and appreciate what they have. Besides, kids love pretending and play-acting. Why not use a meaningful but low-pressure way to bring to life big concepts, like finances and self-reliance? They'll have fun doing it and won't even know they're learning!

No—let them be kids

Childhood is a time for carefree fun, exploration, and adventure. Kids should be able to enjoy that for as long as they can without worrying about grown-up responsibilities like paying rent or earning money to cover expenses. Many kids already feel enough stress from school and extracurricular activities, so piling on more pressure can be overwhelming. Why add additional and unnecessary burdens? Parents can still teach responsibility in more age-appropriate ways, like assigning chores, paying kids to do extra jobs, and letting them see you pay bills or buy groceries. They have plenty of time to be an adult later in life.

YES Three reasons kids should pay rent to their parents

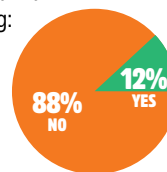
- 1 It fosters financial responsibility and gives them real-world experience.
- 2 Paying rent shows kids that if they want something, they have to put in the effort and have a strong work ethic.
- 3 Play-acting is a great way for kids to learn about complex topics and develop concrete skills while having fun.

NO Three reasons kids should not pay rent to their parents

- 1 Kids should be carefree for as long as possible, rather than weighed down with adult responsibilities.
- 2 School and extracurriculars can be stressful enough for kids without them having to contribute to the household.
- 3 There are more age-appropriate ways to teach kids about managing money.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if people should stop traveling by air. A large majority of you are in favor of flying: 88% of you voted no, while 12% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think children should pay rent to their parents or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.