Family Activities

Discuss the money moral from the fable: "A plan to save increases your nest egg for the future." Talk to your child about deciding on savings goals and developing a savings plan.

Explain the saying "Pay yourself first" as saving some of the money you earn or receive before spending the rest of it. Discuss the importance of saving part of their allowance, gifts of cash, or any other income they receive to pay themselves first.

Talk about the meaning of the word "invest" as using money to gain a profit, or extra money. Remind them that Penny invested in birdseed. Ask your child to think of a good or service that he/she would invest in to make extra money in the future. (Examples might be toys, sports equipment, or a favorite restaurant.)

Take your child to a local bank and open a savings account for him/her. Discuss how the bank uses their deposit money and pays them interest. Tour the main areas of the bank if possible.

Go for a walk around your neighborhood or to a near-by park. See if your child can spot any of the birds mentioned in the fable (pigeon, robin, cardinal or blue jay.) Keep track of the number of birds spotted, and observe and discuss the actions and sounds of the birds.

Ask your child to research an interesting bird, using the National Geographic website at http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/. Tell them to list the characteristics of their bird and other facts that they can find, and then draw an illustration of the bird.

Challenge your child to use their imagination to create a new species of bird! Have them draw their bird in detail showing its features, such as the head, beak, body, wings and tail feathers. Ask them to color the bird in their favorite colors. Tell them to name their bird after its characteristics (purple-winged spotted finch) or after themselves (Justin's jay.) Then ask them to write a story describing their bird, including where it lives, what it eats, what sounds it makes, and what its habits are.