

ALLOWANCE—one idea

Allowance is to teach money management and should not be tied to chores. (Chores are performed as a family member for the benefit of the family as a whole)

Tabulate the amount of money now spent on your teen in a month for both essentials and non-essentials:

<u>Essentials</u>	<u>Non-essentials</u>
Shoes	designer shoes
Jeans	designer jeans
Etc.	CD's
	New speakers for stereo
	Movies, dances, other entertainment, unless it is a family activity

Provide a substantial allowance from these figures from which all non-essential items are to be purchased. If you find a \$30 pair of shoes that are sufficient and the teen wants the \$60 shoes then you provide the first \$30, they provide the difference. If you believe the allowance to be adequate (fair) and the teen does not—"get a job!"

There will be NO loans or advances; kids tend not to pay their debts.

When money comes too easily, it tends to distort the teens sense of reality, i.e., "I get what I want." A worse perspective is "what I want is what I NEED." Such a plan as above helps them to struggle over determining "what do I need?" vs. "what do I want?" A tremendous lesson in the reality of life. If we parents do not teach them this, then they will learn it the extremely hard way.

(acknowledgment to John Rosemond)