Do you know anyone who gets an allowance? I can name 10 of my friends right off the bat. Many kids get an allowance from their parents. But the recent annual T. Rowe Price survey showed that 83% of parents who give their child or children an allowance believe that they should be tied to chores (2016). Allowances and chores are a frequently debated topic. Most people think allowances should be tied to chores, and some people think kids shouldn’t have allowances at all. If you’re in the 83% who think that allowances should be paid for chores, I intend to change your mind! Allowances should not be tied to chores as parents provide you with your needs already, it teaches you many valuable lessons, and it teaches you what being a family really means.

Parents spend a huge chunk of their money on kids already. A 2011 article that appeared in the Canadian publication [moneysense.ca](http://www.moneysense.ca/save/financial-planning/the-real-cost-of-raising-a-child/) placed the estimate at $13,366 a year (just adding the components of the basic needs of a child). Using these numbers, this would mean that parents spend at least $240,588 for 18 years of their son or daughter’s life. But this is only for one child! Parents also put money in saving for their child’s tuition for post-secondary school as well as paying bills, life insurance, and much more. Your parents also have to work every day so they can support you and your needs. They come home drowsy and tired of everything they’ve been doing, but they still have to take care of you. They have to clean the house, do the laundry, wash the dishes, buy groceries, the list goes on and on. The point is, doing chores is the least you can do to show appreciation to your parents. Washing the dishes, or doing a simple clean-up isn’t hard at all. After all, you’re living in the same house so you’re just cleaning up after yourself. Parents love it when their kids know how much they do for them and on top of that, doesn’t it feel good to do something nice for someone else? Especially someone you love and who has been with you for pretty much your entire life? When someone smiles and is happy, you’re more likely to be that way too!

Not only is doing chores without payment good for others, but it also benefits you and your future as well. Paying children for chores removes opportunities for educational purposes. An incentive for money replaces the lesson of how and why to maintain a clean home. Parents can’t teach their child cleaning for the sake of cleaning when all they’re focusing on is getting money. Financial columnist Ron Lieber from the *New York Times* weighs on the subject by saying “At some point, they’re going to get wise to the whole system. [They’re] gonna say to [their mother], ‘We don’t want to do the chores this week, and we don’t want to do the chores next week, and we don’t want to do the chores next month. (2019)’ And then she’s in a little bit of a pickle, because the deal she set was that they get paid if they do their chores, which will [teach] them that if they don’t want the money, then they don’t have to do the chores.” This pay-for-chores system, as Lieber pointed out, teaches children that they simply have to give up payment in order to escape chores. But in reality, chores are unavoidable. When your kids grow up, they're going to have their own cleaning houses. So why don’t you set them for life by having them develop a cleaning habit? This is a great learning opportunity and it doesn’t hurt anybody by doing so.

Doing chores without payment is another opportunity for parents to teach their kids what family is all about. Parents giving their child money for doing chores teaches kids that everything revolves around them. It puts the child above the needs of the family. If the child is asked to do a favour, the child might ask, ‘what do I get out of it?’ or ‘What’s in it for me?’. In other words, by giving your kid money for doing chores, the end result might be having a selfish kid. They might expect a reward for everything. Imagine the kid grows into an adult, in the real world, working. What would happen if the child grows up into thinking he or she gets rewards for everything? Well, the end result won’t be the best. Family Psychologist Erica Reischer writes, “I frequently hear complaints from parents about sticker charts gone awry. One mother, who was initially pleased with the results of her sticker-chart system said that when she asked her 8-year-old son to stop what he was doing and help his younger brother clean up a spill, he responded: “What will you give me? (2016)” From Erica’s experience and many others too, this is the result of giving your kid a reward for doing chores. On the other hand, chores with no payment teach your child how to clean and help out because you’re a family, not for the reward. Therefore, rather than telling your child to put away the dishes because they have something in it, focusing on how everyone’s doing their job makes the family run smoothly is teaching a better lesson.

All and all, children shouldn’t receive money for doing chores. You might not know it, but giving your kids money for chores is actually harming their future and they’re not getting any good out of it. By having the allowance tied to something else, you’re saving money, teaching your child many valuable lessons, and teaching him or her how to help out your family and friends. Now that you know this, maybe tell your parents you don’t need an allowance anymore, or if you yourself are a parent, consider having your kid’s allowance tied to something other than chores or maybe stop giving them allowances.