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## **Small Change Adds Up – Youth Version**

Spending habits may be getting in the way of making your money last to the end of the month or being able to save any money.

Look at Jenna, age 16 and her earnings during the year averaged \$75 a week at a local store. At 52 weeks, this comes to about \$4000 a year.

She feels she doesn't spend extravagantly, but she never has any money to save, much less making it last to the end of the month! She's always running short on gas money and having to try to borrow from her mom and then that causes another big discussion.

Needless to say, Jenna didn't know where her money was going.

She drove to school each day, plus to work a few days a week. She also gave rides to her friends and usually drove on the weekends when they went somewhere. She filled up with gas once every week and a half, which cost her an average of \$20.00 a week. At 52 weeks a year, her gas totaled to about \$1050. (That's not including the car insurance bill of \$500 a year!)

On the way to school, she and her friends would stop for a latte each day (\$2.00). At the noon break or after school, they'd buy a candy bar or doughnut plus bottled water or a soda (\$1.50). Without knowing it, she was spending \$3.50 a day on just snacks.

With an average of 20 school days per month, she was spending over \$700 during the year on snacks alone. Between the snacks and just her gas, she was spending almost \$2000 a year!

But she forgot, Jenna also liked to go and see a movie each weekend and get a snack there too, which cost her about \$10 a weekend, and \$500 a year. The more we talked, the more things that came up like this and kept adding up!

And don't forget what happens to the money you earn before you receive it! It gets taxed. In other words, Jenna had to earn over \$3000 in order to get the \$2500 that was being spent on gas, snacks and movies. Yet Jenna would say, "I don't have any money left!?"

Have you ever asked yourself, "Where does all my money go?" Like Jenna, most people spend small amounts of money without paying attention. Jenna was spending close to 75% of her annual income on snacks, gas and movies, and didn't know where it was going. You've got to look at your spending habits, for that is where you'll find the key making it to the end of the month with money left to save or spend.

## Small Change Adds Up

Directions: Write the price for each item that you normally buy. Then multiply by 4 for weekly items to figure your possible cost each month for that item. Multiply this number by 12 to figure yearly costs.



Item	Amount Purchased	How Often Purchased	Price	Cost In One Month
<b>Snacks:</b> Candy Bars/Gum/Mints				
Vending Machine/Energy Bar				
Snacks/Energy Drinks/Donuts				
Eating Out/Super Sizing Meals				
Cigarettes/Chew				
<b>Activities:</b> Bowling/Skiing/				
Sporting Events/Fitness Club Fees				
Video Arcade/Computer Games				
Internet Fees/Downloads				
<b>Rentals:</b> VHS/DVD Movies				
Video Games				
Cell phone/Track Phone/Minutes				
Music/CD's/Buying DVD's				
<b>Refreshments:</b> Soda/Bottled				
Water/Sports Drink				
Coffee/Cappuccino				
Gas/Oil/Antifreeze/Etc.				
Pencils/Pens				
Clothes				
Hair-Care/Cut/Etc.				
Manicures/Pedicures/Tanning				
Car Wash				
Movie Theatre-Tickets/Concessions				

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