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FOR KIDS

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FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR KIDS

# HEAD IN THE GAME



**Celebrities and sports stars share their secrets for getting smart about money. Hint: They started young!**

Actress *Brec Bassinger* plays *Bella* on Nickelodeon's hit show *Bella and the Bulldogs*.

# Starting Young

Adults are often told: "If you don't know what you want to do with your life, think back to what you enjoyed doing when you were 11 years old. Chances are you'll like similar things now." With that in mind, we asked a few celebrities and sports stars to think back to when they were 11—in particular, to their earliest memories about earning and saving money.

—By Jean Chatzky, Kelly Hultgren, and Walecia Konrad



KEVIN C. COX—GETTY IMAGES

**Jillian Michaels** is a health and wellness expert and a judge on *Sweat, Inc.*, on Spike.

**What did you want to be when you were 11?**

I wanted to be a rock star—and no, I didn't come close. I can't play an instrument. Nor can I sing or dance. I fell into fitness when I was 17, while I was training for my black belt.

**How did you get smart about money?**

I was always looking for an angle. I'd paint my neighbors' addresses on the curb and tell them, "If you want to give me \$5, you can." I remember thinking, "There's got to be a better way." I had all these minimum-wage jobs, but I made \$50 for painting curbs with a \$2 can of paint.

**Is that why you started your own business?**

I had a bunch of personal-training clients who believed in me, so I put together a **business proposal**. I told my clients, "If I can't pay you back with interest, I'll work it off in training." Making money isn't necessarily happiness, but it is freedom. It gives you the ability to make choices.

**Heather O'Reilly** is a three-time Olympic gold medalist who competed on the winning U.S. Women's World Cup team.

**When did you first realize you wanted to have a career in soccer?**

When I was 14 years old, I attended a Women's World Cup match, in New Jersey, and I was really inspired. I hope the summer we had this year will inspire future stars!

**What advice would you give aspiring athletes?**

First, it's cool to work hard. In sports or in school, put yourself out there and really try. Surround yourself with positive people. Second, be yourself. We all have different gifts to bring to the table.

**When did you first think about money?**

I remember getting excited about saving money. My parents taught me not to buy things on a whim. If you still want it weeks later, maybe look into it. As you get older, you especially learn that **material** things aren't everything!

**Mike Adams** is a safety for the Indianapolis Colts.

**What's your earliest money memory?**

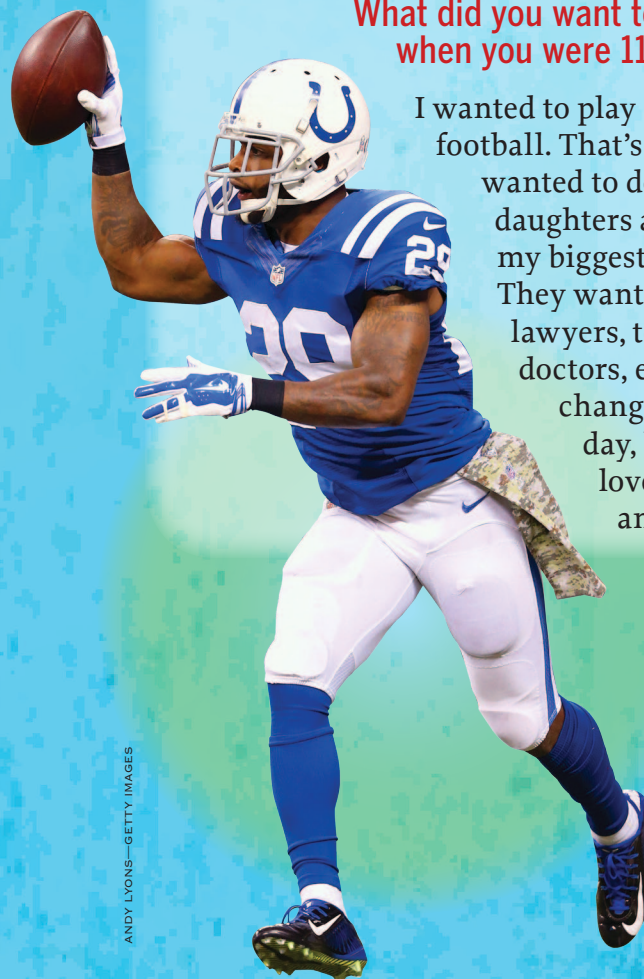
When I was about 8 or 9 years old, my brother and I would ask our grandma for a quarter to go to the store. She told us to collect cans, crush them, sell them, and make money that way. We'd earn up to \$6—it was tons of cans. I kept the money in a watch box. Once, I bought a foot-long pencil.

**How did that shape your beliefs about money?**

[Working for it] made me appreciate money more. Now I'm saving money and doing it for my kids and putting food in their mouths, and I have bills to pay. My mom and grandma used to say that money doesn't grow on trees, and that's so true. I want kids to work for it and appreciate it.

**What did you want to be when you were 11?**

I wanted to play football. That's all I wanted to do. My daughters are my biggest fans. They want to be lawyers, teachers, doctors, etc. It changes every day, but I love their ambition.



ANDY LYONS—GETTY IMAGES

**Brec Bassinger** plays Bella in Nickelodeon's hit show *Bella and the Bulldogs*.

**When did you realize you wanted to act?**

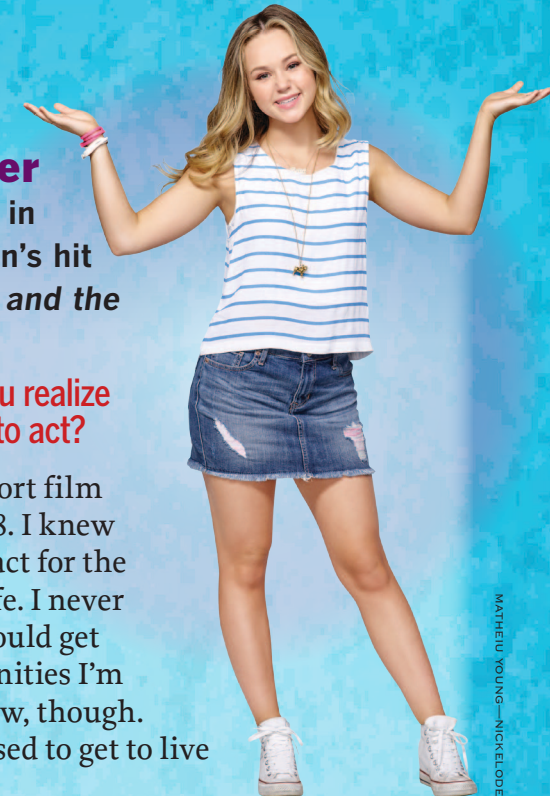
I was in a short film when I was 8. I knew I wanted to act for the rest of my life. I never thought I would get the opportunities I'm receiving now, though. I feel so blessed to get to live my dream.

**When did you first think about money?**

I never had an allowance, growing up. My parents taught me not to be tight with money, because you want to have fun experiences with it, but to still be smart with how you spend it. My first big purchase was my car.

**What advice would you give young people?**

Work hard! When you are 11, you are getting ready for the rest of your life. If you get in the habit of always working hard, it will carry over into your adult life. Also, don't be in a rush to grow up. If you're having fun, you are doing something right.



MATTHEW YOUNG—NICKELODEON

## POWER WORDS

**business proposal:** a written document that describes a specific plan to make money

**material:** relating to things you can hold or own

## FAMILY CHALLENGE Be the reporter!

Talk to your family about the questions we asked celebrities. What are your parents' earliest money memories? What did they want to be when they were your age?

DON FLOOD

BACKGROUND: DESIFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

## KIDS WEIGH IN

What do you do if you get a present you don't want? Some people say it's okay to regift because it means the item will get used. Others think it is not polite to pass on a present. Two kids share their views.



## Is It Ever Okay to Regift?



**Zara Shariff, 11**  
New York, New York

Worldwide, we generate trillions of pounds of garbage every year! Do we really need to add to that? So many unwanted presents will end up in a landfill. But you don't want to hang on to something you don't use out of guilt. Giving the item to someone who appreciates it makes everyone feel good and cuts down on waste.



**Maple Buescher, 12**  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

People give gifts to others to say, "I'm thinking about you! Here's something I think you'll enjoy." The giver takes time to choose something. When you regift, you don't make this effort. Your gift becomes less personal and less meaningful. It sends a message that the person you are giving a gift to is not worth your time. Is that a message you want to send?

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We want to hear from you! Vote on this topic and more at [timeforkids.com/pwcdebate](http://timeforkids.com/pwcdebate).

## New Year, New Goals

The beginning of a new year is a time of resolutions and improvements. Here are three things to do with your money in 2016!

- 1. Save!** Start saving 10% of any money you receive. For example, if you get \$10 for your birthday, save at least \$1 of it.
- 2. Earn!** Offer to work around the house, babysit, dog-walk—anything that interests you and works with your school schedule.
- 3. Give!** Help your community this year by donating your time. Ask your teachers or parents to help you find a volunteer activity.

STEVE KELLEY—GETTY IMAGES