




**Thank you for volunteering to help!**






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— Have you ever wished that someone had clued you in to the "real world" before you actually were required to tackle the task? Reality Town does just that by giving students a glimpse into the future of adult financial responsibilities.

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Reality Town provides students with a hands-on simulation in which they make lifestyle and budget decisions as they take on careers, salaries, families, and the associated responsibilities of the adult world.

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# Reality Town:

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- is a tool to get students to take education seriously.
- helps students to see school as a means for better employment opportunities.
- helps students begin to look and plan for their futures.
- helps students see how the choices they make from this point on can affect the life they will have as an adult.

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Students learn the following in class to help prepare them for the Reality Town experience.

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## **Mini Lessons:**

- An interest and career search.
- Writing a personal resume.
- Filling out a job application.
- Check writing.
- Balancing a checkbook.

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# Students picked their career based on their own personal interests and current GPA.


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By classifying the careers in this way, students are able to see what their prospective career opportunities may include given their current effort and achievement in school.

- For example, in the simulation a "C" student could not choose to be a doctor.



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Students take on the life of a 30 year old. They have randomly been assigned one of the following life scenarios:

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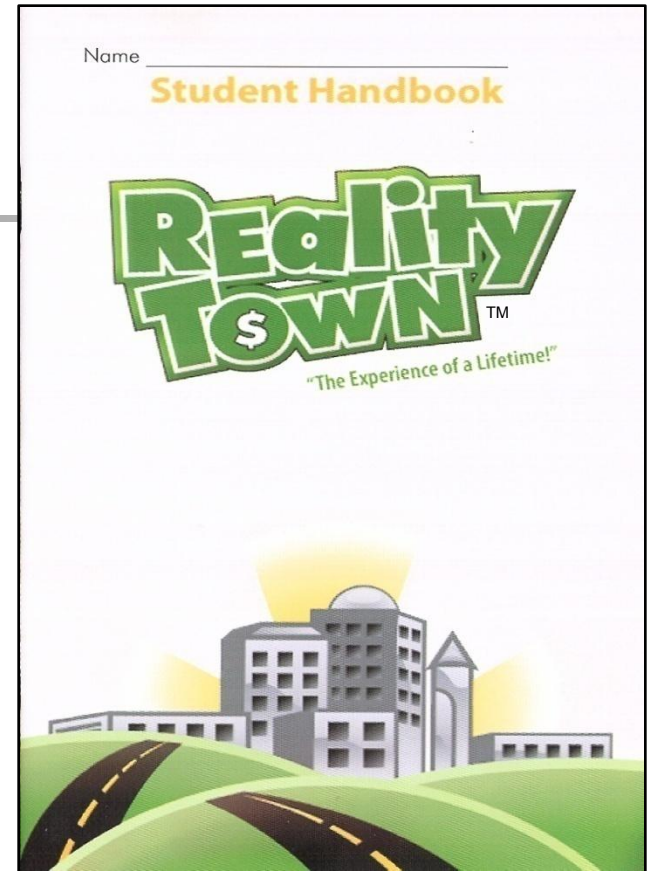
- married, spouse works and goes to school
  - no help for child care – contributes \$500 to their monthly income
- married, spouse works
  - contributes \$2,000 to their monthly income
- single parent
  - add \$200 per child to their monthly income
- married, spouse stays home
  - no additional income added

Students are also randomly assigned 1, 2 or 3 children in their Reality Town family.

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The student's:  
**lifestyle scenario, number, ages  
and gender of their children, job  
assignment and salary  
information** all appear on the  
student's personal pay stub found  
on the inside cover of the student  
handbook.



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## Pay Stub



This is your opportunity to take a glimpse into your future so that you can begin to plan now.

You are 30 years old and have just moved to a new community. You need to make purchases for setting up your household. You are married and your spouse goes to school and works part-time to pay for their schooling. He/She contributes an additional \$500 a month to your household income. You can't count on them for child care. You own a car that is paid for and your spouse uses it all the time. Your spouse pays for his/her own gas and maintenance, so this does not need to be included in your budget. At the transportation business, you will need to purchase a car for you to use.

Here is your Reality Town Family!  
8 year old boy      4 year old girl

Today is pay day and this is your Pay Stub.

Money Smart

Interior Designer - Required Education: Associates Degree

Monthly Net Pay	\$2,750
Spouse's Income	\$500
Household Monthly Income	\$3,250

Annual Gross Salary (before taxes)	\$44,950
Monthly Gross Pay (before taxes)	\$3,746

Tax Withholdings:

4 exemptions (# of people in your Reality Town family)

Federal Tax	\$211
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State Tax	\$144
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FICA	\$232
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Medicare	\$54
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Health Insurance Withholding	\$200
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Automatic Student Loan Payment	\$155
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(Loan Amount \$914; # of Payments 6)

Monthly Net Pay (after taxes & loan repayment)	\$2,750
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Annual Net Salary (after taxes)	\$34,860
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Health Insurance Prem - \$

Dental Insurance - \$60

Federal Insurance Penalty (monthly) for no Health Insurance - \$

★Professional Dress Required

Lifestyle  
Scenario

Student's  
Name

Job &  
Education

Ages, gender and  
# of children

Household Monthly  
Income

Student &  
Equipment Loans

Click for next  
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Your job is to help students with purchases at a particular business.



- The designated area has been set-up with tables and signs indicating the various businesses.

Click for next  
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Students will enter the gym and visit the Savings & Loan where they will open a checking account and receive a checkbook.



Click for next  
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They then may visit the other businesses in any order.



Students are required to visit every business and make purchases and financial decisions involving their family's monthly income.



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- Students will write out a check at each business to pay for their purchases.
- The check should be written out to the name of the business – Groceries, Donations, Medical, etc.

*Collect the checks in a pile at your table.*

Click for next  
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The Ch

Please record in the register the total amount of the purchases made at your business and subtract it from the balance for the students.

At the bank students may take out the money they have put into savings.

They must go to Financial Counseling to access their Emergency Savings.

SAVINGS ACCOUNT			
TRANSACTIONS	WITHDRAWAL (-)	DEPOSIT (+)	BALANCE
Emergency Savings — you must go to Deposit!		\$1,000	\$1,000
Savings Deposit		50.00	50.00

Click for next slide

Please initial the back of the student handbook in the designated area, to help insure that students visit all of the businesses.

### Optional businesses.

- ❖ The Pet Store
  - ❖ Military Recruitment Office
  - ❖ Life Insurance
  - ❖ Investments are also
- 
- ❖ **Supplemental Income and Financial Counseling** are there to assist you if you need help, and are optional.

**Visit The Following Businesses**

After each purchase, have the representative at the business initial below.  
You must visit each business except for the optional businesses.


Page	Business	Initials
11	Business	
12	Checking & Savings	
10	Kid's Corner (Child Care)	
13	Clothing	
13	Communications	
13	Dentist's Office (Dental Office)	
15	Donations	
14	Entertainment	
9	Groceries	
16	Home Improvement	
7	Housing	
6	Insurance	
1	Insurance (car) buy your car before coming here	
10	"Just My Luck"	
16	Personal Care	
8	Property Care (Health and Grooming)	
5	Transportation	
8	Utilities buy your house before coming here	
8	Supplemental Counseling	
8	Pet Store (optional)	
12	Recruitment Income (optional)	
15	Life Insurance Office (optional)	
16	Investments (optional)	

**Reality Town**  
R.E.A.L. Curriculum LLC  
P.O. Box 277  
Lynchburg, VA 24503  
(801) 824-REAL (7263)

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# At each business you will find an instruction sheet with the information that you will need.



## Child Care

Students will need to pay for child care and/or sports/lessons for their child(ren). The number of children and their ages and whether or not their spouse works are found on the student's pay stub inside the front cover of the student handbook. Using the information on the back of this page, have students purchase child care for the month. Students have a copy of the price sheet in their student handbook page 12.

Instructions:

1. Have students look at the "Kid's Kare" brochure in their handbook page 12 and mark the service(s) they need.
2. Have students write out a check to "Child Care" for the amount of their purchase. Record the total amount in the student's *check register* found in the middle of the handbook and subtract from the balance.
3. Initial the student's handbook in the designated area on the back cover, to insure that the students visit all of the businesses.

Due to time restrictions, do the subtraction or addition for the students.

Students may be creative in how they handle child care, such as getting their mom to baby-sit. However the student's mother must be a stay-at-home mom in "real life."

Items students must purchase include:

- After school care for older children, or day care for younger children if both adults work or attend school.
- A parent's night out or errand running if only one parent works. (# of hours can be adjusted if they can't afford the full amount)

Encourage Students to purchase the following:

- Sports/Lessons for children over the age of 5.

Materials Needed:

- Instruction sheet with pricing guide on the back
- Calculator
- Pen

4

Front

## "Kids Kare"

Monthly Rates!

If both parents work or attend school, you must have day care for any child under 5 years of age and after school care for children 5-11 years of age.

#	Service	Cost	Amount
	Day Care - Infants (0-23 months old)	\$450.00	
	Day Care - Children (2- 4 years old)	\$350.00	
	Pre-School (3 days a week) Even if one parent stays at home, you may want to enroll your 3 or 4 year old in pre-school.	\$100.00	
	After School Care If both parents work you must provide after school care for any child 5-11 years of age.	\$250.00	
	Parent's Night Out - (3 hours) Teenage babysitter	1 child \$12.00 2 children \$15.00 3 children \$18.00	
	Errand Running - (3 hours) If only one of the parents work, then the other parent will need time during the day to run errands.	1 child \$ 9.00 2 children \$11.00 3 children \$13.00	
	Private School Tuition (ages 5-18 years)	\$800.00	

Sports/Lessons

Children like to take lessons and participate in sports. If feasible, choose at least one activity for each child that is over 5 years of age.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Music Lessons	\$40.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soccer Team	\$30.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swim Lessons	\$50.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Track Team	\$30.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Football	\$40.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baseball	\$30.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boy or Girl Scouts	\$10.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hockey Team	\$50.00/ month
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Sports	\$40.00/ month

Total Child Care Costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Information for specific businesses

Click for next  
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# Health Insurance<sup>TM</sup> Medical & Dental

unity. You need to make  
and your spouse goes  
He/She contributes an  
can't count on them for  
se uses it all the time.  
e, so this does not need  
iness, you will need to

- An insurance stamp indicates that a student has Medical or Dental Insurance

- No Insurance Penalty = *the student has opted to not buy insurance – they are charge full price for doctor & dental visits.*

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Money Smart

*Interior Designer* - Required Education: Associates Degree

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Federal Insurance Penalty (monthly) for no Health Insurance - \$

★Professional Dress Required

Dental and Medical Insurance are purchased at the at the Insurance Office.

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# Clothing

- Information on the *Pay Stub* tells you if the student needs to dress in professional attire for their chosen career.

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Reality  
Town®**

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~~Active~~ Health Insurance Prem - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dental Insurance - \$60

Federal Insurance Penalty (monthly) for no Health Insurance - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Professional Dress Required\***

This information helps the volunteers in the clothing business and is further explained in the instructions for the clothing volunteers.

Click for next  
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# Transportation

- The student's lifestyle scenario gives information about the student's transportation needs. The *Pay Stubs* are color coded for quick identification.

This information helps the volunteers at the transportation business and is further explained in the instructions for the transportation volunteers.

**Welcome To Reality Town®**

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★Professional Dress Required


Click for next  
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**Send students to  
Financial Counseling** if they  
run out of money or need  
financial advice or help.

Click for next  
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A wrap-up and debriefing  
will be completed in the  
classroom after the Reality  
Town simulation.

Click for next  
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**Thank You for your help,  
and enjoy your day at  
Reality Town!**

**Questions?**

The END