Teen Checking Accounts

Age group: 13–18 years old

Opening a checking account for your child might feel intimidating, but it's one of the most effective ways to teach real-world money skills. Starting early sets them up for long-term financial confidence—especially as they begin part-time jobs or prepare for college. Here's what to know before opening an account together.

Yes—Children and Teens Can Have Checking Accounts

Minors can have a **joint checking account** with a parent or legal guardian. Both of you will be listed on the account and have access to it.

Let Your Teen Make Mistakes

This part can feel uncomfortable, but it's essential. Even responsible teens slip up sometimes. Learning from small financial mistakes now—while you can guide them—helps them avoid bigger, more expensive mistakes later. As a joint account holder, you can monitor spending, create a budget, talk through habits, and help them correct issues in real time.

Raising a More Independent Teen

As your child matures, they need opportunities to practice independence. A checking account gives them responsibility for everyday expenses like gas, outings with friends, or hobby-related purchases. It's a safe way to build confidence and accountability.

How Do I Open a Checking Account for My Child?

You'll need basic information for both you and your child. Be prepared to provide:

- Your child's full name
- Your child's Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- Your child's driver's license or other state-issued ID (if available)
- Your SSN or ITIN
- Your driver's license or other state-issued ID
- A document proving your address
- An initial deposit to open the account

What Features Should My Child's Checking Account Have?

Look for features that make banking simple, safe, and educational:

- **Parental monitoring:** You can view the account anytime through online banking or a mobile app.
- **No fees:** Avoid accounts with maintenance fees or ATM charges. We offer free checking accounts and we waive overdraft fees for the first year.
- **No minimum balance:** Teens often have irregular income, so requiring a minimum balance can be frustrating and counterproductive.
- **Mobile app access:** A user-friendly app helps your child check their balance, deposit occasional checks, and transfer money between accounts.

🎉 *Earn Your Reward!*

Open (or use) a Teen Checking Account + 10 Transactions = Pick a Gift Card!

Here's how it works:

📌 **Step 1 — Account Bonus**
• If you're brand new: we'll make a **$25 deposit** into your new teen account.
• If you already have an account: we'll deposit **$25 into your checking** to kick things off.

📌 **Step 2 — Make 10 Transactions**
• Any combination of debits, purchases, card swipes, online bill pay — just *use the account!*
• Once you complete **10 qualifying transactions**, you get to choose a gift card!

📌 **Step 3 — Choose Your Reward**
• Pick from a curated list of popular gift cards — tailored to what **you** want!
• Options could include places like

- 🎮 Game stores
- ☕ Coffee shops
- 🍔 Fast casual food spots
- 🎧 Music or streaming services
- 👟 Retailers teens love

🎁 Why It's Cool

✅ Encourages everyday money habits
✅ Gives teens something they actually want
✅ Rewards real, real-world account use — not just sign-up