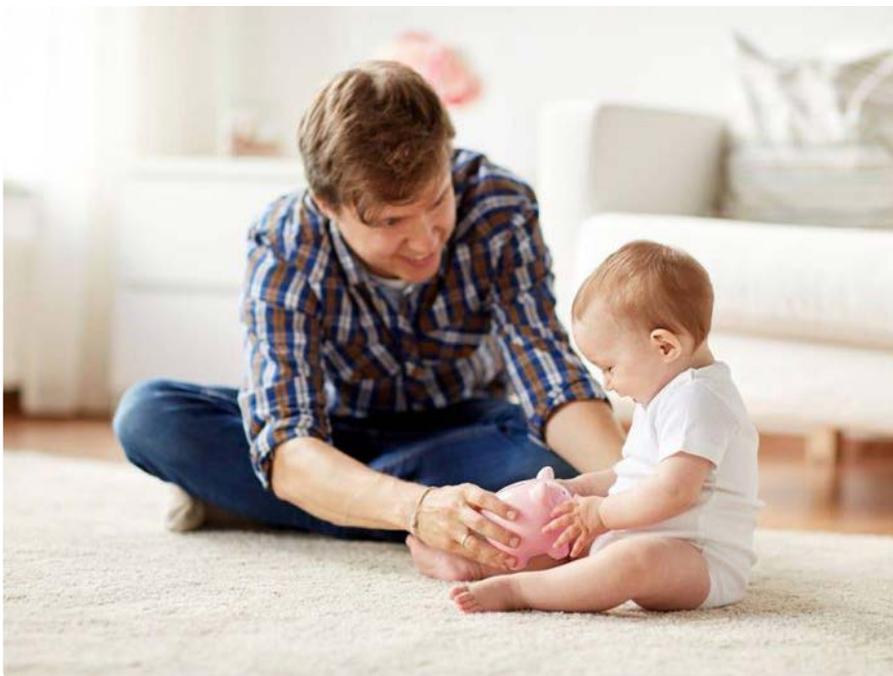


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MONEY SAVING IDEAS & TIPS, MONEY SAVVY LIFESTYLE

MONEY SAVING IDEAS FOR NEW PARENTS: SEVEN OF THE QUIRKIEST—AND EASIEST—INTERNET TIPS



If there's one universal truth about new parents it's that they are frazzled, sleep-deprived and riddled with other people's advice.

The internet is replete with tips for parents looking to economize on their new-baby lifestyle. But when you hardly have time to read them, you most definitely lack time to do them. Let's face it: Given the choice

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between taking a shower and blending up some all-natural, home-grown baby food is, well...not really a choice.

In this light, we've rounded up some of the more unconventional money saving tips that are truly simple to adopt. They're so easy, in fact, you could practically do them in your sleep!

Money Saving Tip #1: Cut your sponge costs (literally) in half

By recommending you [cut your sponges in half](#), mom.me offers a dual lifestyle hack. You save money on sponges *and* the need to clean the dirty ones. Just toss the used half away and grab the second. Hey, that's not *half*-bad!

Money Saving Tip #2: Unplug

No, you probably can't unplug from the world anytime soon, no matter how much your exhausted self may want to. But Better Homes & Gardens claims that [unplugging just half of your appliances](#) can save you up to \$10 per month. Tuck that cash into a separate account and you're on your way to a new [savings plan](#).

Money Saving Tip #3: Get away from it all

Who can dispute Business Insider's statement that "[It's hard to spend money in the forest](#)"? Parks, gardens, lakes and libraries are all spots you can enjoy yourselves without pulling out your wallet. By finding things to do that don't require cash, you're modeling good habits for your kids, too.

Money Saving Tip #4: Tame the temptation

The HuffPost hits a popular vice when they warn of the "[Target temptation](#)". Home goods stores are the *best* for gift shopping, décor inspiration and that string of perfect patio lights. But let's get real: When you pass all those sale-priced trendy tops on your way to the same old toiletries, it's hard to curb the craving. Find another store to buy your household goods and leave the fun stuff for the fun fund.

Money Saving Tip #5: Host a family swap

No, we don't mean trading actual families, just your "pre-loved" family *wares*. Your gently used (or even unused) kids' clothes are treasures to

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other new parents. And older kids' toys and sports equipment might be just what your little ones are growing into. Set up a communal [stuff swap](#) between friends (and friends-of-friends). Added bonus: it's social, could involve cocktails and you unload your junk in the process.

Money Saving Tip #6: Throw a diaper party

Once you had a life where “diapers” and “parties” never shared a sentence. Now a [diaper party](#) might be the most exciting thing to happen all ~~week~~ ~~month~~ year. Sometimes billed as a [man's baby shower](#), [diaper parties](#) need not require men, beer or even [cutsie invitations](#). The host supplies food and drinks and ask your friends to show up with one item and one item only: a pack of nappies. Just be sure you have the variety of sizes to accommodate that growing bum. [Parent.com did the math](#) on the amount and variety of diapers you'll need for your baby's first 12 months. The Thrifty Couple lists the [average number of diapers](#) a child uses daily right up to the potty-training years. (Spoiler alert: it's thousands and thousands and thousands.)

Money Saving Tip #7: Ditch the shoes

Here's an obvious point: babies don't walk. Still, there exist [adorable \(and spendy\) baby shoes!](#) Instead of spending \$30 or more on a pair of baby shoes, slip on soft booties for outside wear and bring up a barefoot baby while in. [Pro tip from parent.com](#): those bare little piggies apparently help babies walk better anyway.

MARCH 9, 2017 | 0 COMMENTS | BY DANIELLE SESKO

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