

the game of inflation

Instructions

Supplies

- A print out of the game board (page 2).
- A print out of the inflation tally sheet (page 3).
- A game piece. You can use anything small like a penny, for example.
- Play money. Grab them from a Monopoly game or make your own.
- A six-sided die.

Setup

Start by placing the game piece on the board at the starting position. The player will begin the game with \$6.

Object

The object of the game is to accumulate enough money by the end of the year to buy the red car. The player must race to beat inflation which is driving the price of the car up higher and higher as the year progresses.

How to play

The player rolls the die and moves the game piece one space. The player is paid \$3. The number rolled indicates how much the price goes up on the toy car for the month. Write the number on the tally sheet.

Once the player reaches the end of the year, tally up the total inflation amount for the year to get the new price of the car. Count how much money the player accumulated in a year.

How to win

If the player has enough money to buy the car at the end of the year, the player wins. If the player doesn't have enough, inflation wins.

Playing a second time

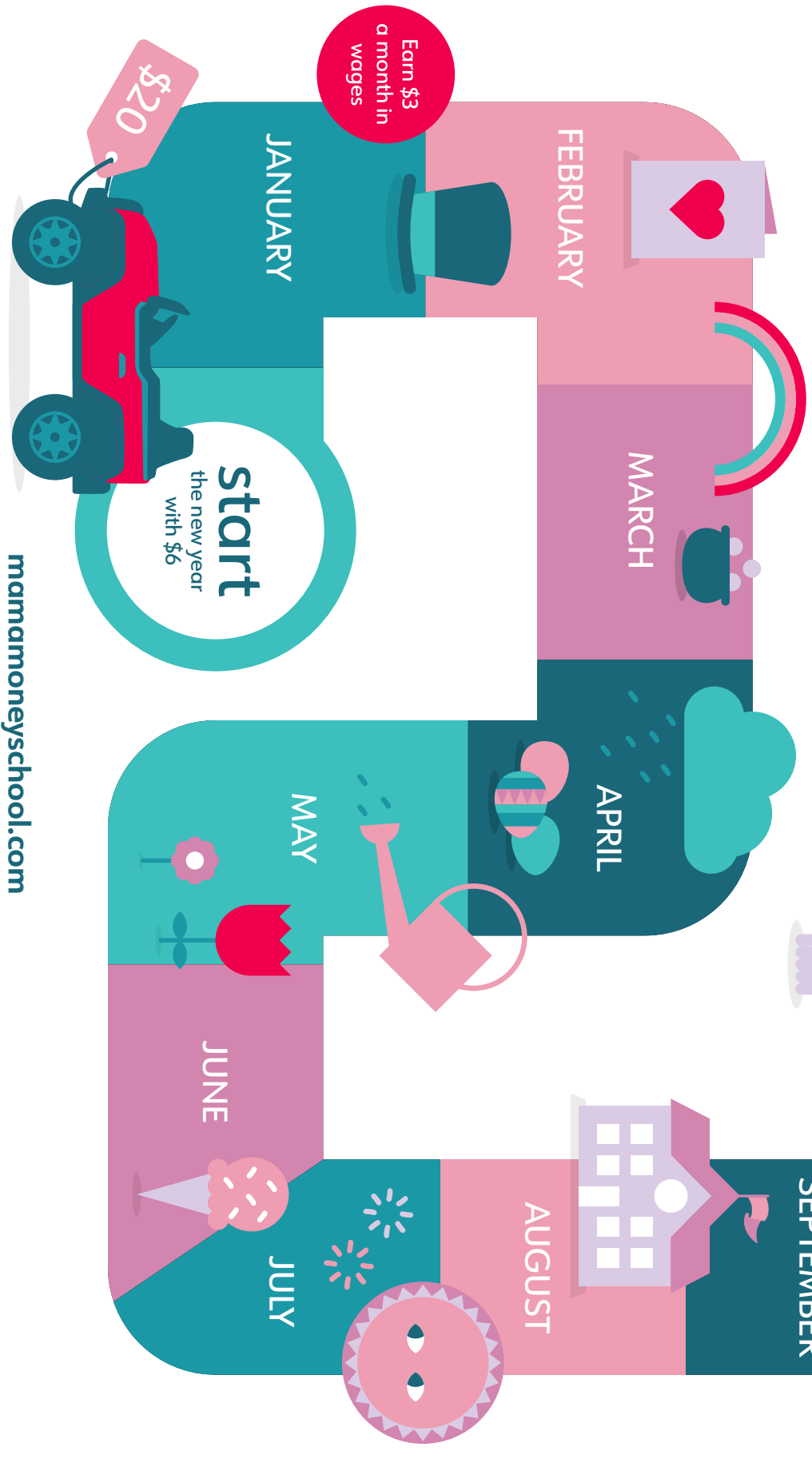
The game play is the same the second time except the player has the option to invest their initial \$6 at any time during the game. If the player chooses to invest, place the \$6 in the space provided on the tally sheet. The player earns \$2 every month in gains unless a 6 is rolled. If a 6 is rolled, the player loses \$1 from their investment.

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Earn \$3 a month in wages



Inflation tally sheet

Month	FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND
	Monthly inflation amount (Write down the number on the die)	Monthly inflation amount (Write down the number on the die)
Initial price of car	\$20	\$20
January	\$	\$
February	\$	\$
March	\$	\$
April	\$	\$
May	\$	\$
June	\$	\$
July	\$	\$
August	\$	\$
September	\$	\$
October	\$	\$
November	\$	\$
December	\$	\$
Total (The price of the car at the end of the year)	\$	\$
Total money earned (Add up wages + investment earnings—all cash)	\$	\$

Investment zone

Place money here to invest it during the second round of play.

Talking points for parents

Here is a list of talking points to help get your child thinking about inflation. Choose a few to talk about while your child plays the game or talk about them as you go about your day, especially if something in your child's life relates to the subject.

Did your child lose the game the first play through?

- Inflation happens in real life. The cost of the food we eat and the toys we want are always increasing because of inflation.
- When people keep their money in a bank account (or piggy bank) the money doesn't grow (or grows very little) and therefore doesn't keep up with inflation.
- If people just save their money, their money will be able to buy less over time. It's kind of like losing money.

Did your child win the game after they invested?

- Investing money allows it to grow over time and should outpace inflation. If money is invested right, it should be able to buy more over time. It's kind of like winning money.

Did your child roll a 6 and lost some of the invested money?

- Investments come with some risk. It's possible to lose money like what happened when a six was rolled in the game.

Real life practice

Applying what your child has learned to a real life experience will help them understand and remember what they have learned.

- Track the price of an item. Ask your child to name a toy they wished they owned. *Fair warning: this might cause your child to want and request the toy even more.* Check the price of the item on Target's website (or wherever you shop). Then check the price of the same item every month to see if the price goes up. It may or may not. If you want a pretty sure bet, you can track the price of Disneyland tickets. Their prices are almost guaranteed to go up every year and it usually happens at the early part of the year.
- Look up the price history of an item. Disneyland tickets are a good option for this too. You can look up how much the tickets cost when Disney first opened its doors compared to how much they cost today. Look at the price from ten years ago and try to guess how much they will cost in another ten years.
- Look up the current inflation rate and compare it to the interest rate of a savings account at a local bank.

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This isn't legal, tax, investment, or financial advice. I'm just a mom teaching my kids about money and inviting other parents to do the same.