

## Banking Basics for Parents



Understanding how bank accounts work can help you manage your money, avoid fees, and build better habits for your family. Here's a simple breakdown of the basics:

### Checking vs. Savings Accounts

- A checking account is for everyday use: paying bills, getting paid by direct deposit, or using a debit card.
- A savings account is for storing money you don't need to spend right away. It earns a little interest.

### What is a High-Yield Savings Account?

These accounts (usually online) offer much higher interest rates than traditional savings accounts. Great for growing your emergency fund or saving for a goal.

### Why Direct Deposit Matters

Getting your paycheck directly into your bank account is faster, safer, and helps you avoid check-cashing fees. You'll also get paid even if you're not at work.

### Credit Unions vs. Banks

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial institutions. They often offer lower fees, better interest rates, and more personal service. You usually need to join as a member.

### Rhino Tips 🐘

- Always know your balance before you swipe your card.
- Avoid overdraft fees by signing up for alerts.
- Start your kids with savings early—even \$5/month builds habits!

### Helpful Links

- FDIC Bank Account Guide: <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/>
- Bank On Safe Checking: <https://joinbankon.org/>