

Understanding Credit & Loans



Using credit the right way can help you get approved for a car, home, or better job. Here's what every parent should know:

Credit Cards 101

- Keep your balance under 30% of your credit limit. (Example: \$150 on a \$500 limit)
- Pay your full balance if you can. Always pay on time.

What's the Statement Date?

This is the day your balance gets reported to the credit bureaus. Even if your due date is later, it's smart to pay before your statement date to lower your 'utilization.'

Building or Repairing Credit

- Try a secured credit card or a credit-builder loan.
- Make small purchases and pay off the full amount monthly.

Buy Now, Pay Later = Debt Trouble

Services like Klarna or Afterpay seem easy, but missed payments can hurt your credit or lead to late fees. Stick to planned purchases!

Rhino Tips 🦏

- Always know your statement and due dates.
- Use less than 30% of your available credit.
- Don't co-sign unless you're 100% sure!

Helpful Links

- Annual Credit Reports: <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/>
- Credit Education (CFPB): <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/>