

IN today's culture of digital evolution, new models of various IT gadgets are launched within 18 months. This creates a throwaway culture and the need for instant gratification.

Our children, behaving in "monkeys see, monkeys do" mode, learn this behaviour from parents, cousins and friends. They pester parents for their own electronics and have their wishes granted. This leads to spending on gadgets costing thousands of ringgit. In less than two years, these treasured gadgets turn to trash.

■ **Generate cash from trash**

Some trash in our homes is cash. Old newspapers, aluminium cans and recyclable plastic bottles are readily found in our homes. They are the "easy" cash. Of course, there are also the last season's IT gadgets lying somewhere at home.

Get kids involved. They love projects and learn value of money from such activities. In our home, my 11-year-old daughter collects my cardboards and paper collection, aluminium and tin cans, and plastic bottles which we sell to the recyclables collector. Each sale yields between RM2 to RM7 depending on "quality" of recyclables. Aluminium tin cans fetch the most while plastic bottles are cheap. She saves the

# Trash is cash



Cheong Wai Quan is a Success Concepts Life Partners consultant

One person's trash is another person's treasure. You can teach your children the basics of saving through recycling.

money into a jar.

■ **Setting goals for trash cash**

Children learn about purpose when they do projects. In selling recyclables, the amount earned is not proportionate to the energy put in; yet, the goal behind it is worth every ounce of effort! My daughter's savings will go to Save One's Sight (SOS) which raises funds to sustain

medical eye care to underprivileged children born with glaucoma and provide free eye screening to old folks, children in homes and refugees.

■ **Delaying gratification**

Collection of trash is still on-going for more than six months. Our recyclable trash is low, but the effort continues. She knows she will

be "richly rewarded" when she hands in her donation to SOS and see the big smiles from the team at SOS!

Don't let trash litter your home. Convert them into cash. Treasure this "trashy way" to teach your kids the basics of saving and let them learn some rich lessons to last a lifetime.

Illustration by HAFIDZ MAHPAR

