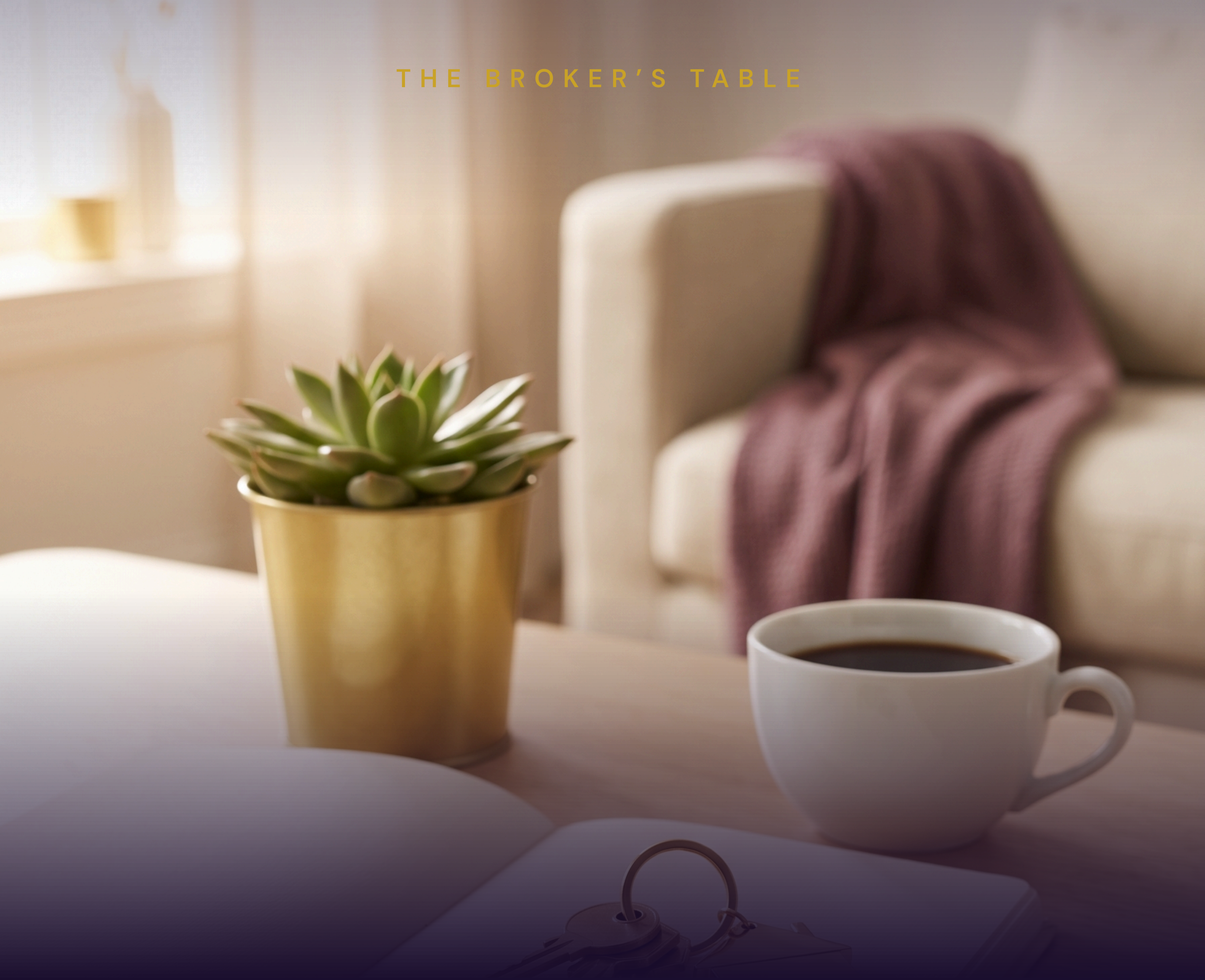
THE BROKER'S TABLE



Credit Myths vs Facts for Parents

What most parents get wrong about credit

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From Esther Jackson-Stowell and The Broker's Table. Educational only, not financial advice. Verify any specific step with your own bank or a licensed professional.

Credit is one of the most powerful, most misunderstood tools a family has. The myths cost people houses, interest, and years. Here is the truth, plainly, so you can teach your children right the first time.

Myth 1: "Credit is debt."

Fact: Credit is a promise about how well you keep your word with money. A high score is not a pile of debt. It is a track record of reliability. Teach your kids that credit is character on paper.

Myth 2: "You should avoid credit cards completely."

Fact: Avoiding credit entirely can leave you invisible to lenders when you need a mortgage. The goal is not fear, it is control: use a small amount, pay it in full, on time, every time. That single habit builds most of a score.

Myth 3: "Checking your credit hurts your score."

Fact: Checking your own credit is a "soft" pull and does nothing to your score. You should check it regularly. Only certain applications create "hard" pulls, and even those are minor and temporary.

Myth 4: "Kids can't build credit."

Fact: In many cases a parent can add a child as an authorized user on a well-managed account, and the account's positive history can help establish the child's credit early. This is legitimate and powerful when done responsibly. Confirm the details with your card issuer first.

Myth 5: "Carrying a balance helps your score."

Fact: This costs families billions. You do not need to carry a balance or pay interest to build credit. Paying in full each month is better for your score and your wallet.

Myth 6: "One late payment is no big deal."

Fact: Payment history is the single largest factor in most scores. One missed payment can undo months of progress. Automate at least the minimum so a busy week never becomes a credit scar.

The three moves that matter most

1. **Pay on time, always.** Automate it.

2. **Keep balances low** relative to your limits.

3. **Keep good accounts open;** age helps.

Everything else is noise. Teach your children these three and they start adult life ahead of nearly everyone.

Your next step

The **Family Money Meeting Bundle** includes the credit strategy, the printable scripts, and the full workbook, so you can teach this at your own table and actually put it into practice.

Get it at thebrokerstable.com.

Educational only. Verify credit strategies with your own bank or a licensed professional before acting.