CHAPTER 3

FOSTER CHILD GRANT (FCG)
Now is the time to know more about the Foster Child Grant.
The Foster Child Grant is money given by the Government to a parent or parents caring for a foster child.

Smiley G, what is the Foster Child Grant?
Tell us more about foster children and foster parents.

A foster child is a child that the children’s court has decided is in need of care and the court has placed the child in the care of foster parent(s).

Foster parents are adults given the responsibility by the court to take care of foster children. A foster parent can be your grandmother, aunt, uncle, neighbour or any other adult.
Smiley G - our parents died so now we live with our aunt. Can my aunt apply to be our foster parent?

Maybe she can!

Before people can become foster parents, they have to ask the Government for permission to take care of you – because this is a very important responsibility!

If the Government agrees, then your aunt will get a letter from the court – called a court order – to explain that you are in the care of your aunt, who will be your foster parent.
FOSTER CHILD GRANT APPLICATION

Good question - if your grandmother has a letter from the court which explains that she is your foster parent then she can apply for the Foster Child Grant.

These are the papers that foster parents need to apply for the Foster Child Grant:

* Identity document.
* Birth certificate.
* If your foster parents are married, they will need their marriage certificate.
* A letter from the Government’s court explaining that the child is in foster care. The letter is called a court order.

If your foster parents do not have identity documents or you do not have a birth certificate, they must go to the police station to get a letter that explains that the documents have been lost. This letter is called an affidavit.

Remember a foster parent can be your grandmother, aunt, uncle or any other adult.
I will tell you about the Foster Child Grant rules. Let us count to five!

1. The court must give a court order that places the child in foster care.
2. The foster parent and the foster child must live in South Africa.
3. The foster parent and the foster child must either be South African citizens, permanent residents or refugees. Refugees are people who have left their country because of bad things, like war.
4. The child must not be older than 18 years, if the child is still at school, then the child must not be older than 21 years.
5. Foster parents can apply for the Foster Child Grant at SASSA offices.

Tell us five things about the Foster Child Grant so that we can count to five.
Now we are at the end of the foster child grant.
CHAPTER 4

CARE DEPENDENCY GRANT (CDG)
Smiley G, you have explained the Child Support Grant and the Foster Child Grant to us. What is the third grant for children?

Wow! You are learning fast. The third grant that is meant for children is called the Care Dependency Grant.
Smiley G, our friend over there is in a wheelchair and he cannot see.

Yes Smiley G, I am in a wheelchair and I need special care. My uncle looks after me everyday and because of this he cannot get a job to earn money.

I like your uncle - he is a good man.
Polly G, can our friend get help from the Government?

Yes, the Government can help with the Care Dependency Grant. The Care Dependency Grant is money that the Government gives to a caregiver of a child who is in need of permanent care because of a disability.

Polly G, that means my uncle can get this social grant. He cannot get a job. He takes care of me on a full-time basis.

Your uncle is just like Smiley G, a superhero!
Let me tell you more about the Care Dependency Grant!

The Care Dependency Grant helps people who cannot work because they are looking after a child who is in need of permanent care because of a disability. There are ... rrrrrrrrules!

1. The caregiver and the child must live in South Africa.
2. The caregiver must have an identity document.
3. The caregiver must have the dependent child’s birth certificate or an identity document.
4. The caregiver must get a medical report from a doctor. This letter will explain why the child has to have special care all the time.
5. The Government might do a means test. We will tell you more about this test later.

Thanks Smiley G and Polly G for this information. Please tell us more about the Care Dependency Grant.
A ‘disability’ is a condition that makes it difficult for someone to do daily activities like walking. Disabilities can either be physical (like our friend in a wheelchair) or mental (affecting a person’s mind). Some people are born with a disability. Sometimes a disability is caused by an accident.
To apply for the Care Dependency Grant (for the child who needs permanent care) the caregiver must have:

1. The caregiver’s identity document.
2. The dependent child’s birth certificate or identity document.
3. A letter from the doctor: the medical report. Remember, this letter explains that the child is living with a permanent disability and needs special care.
4. The caregiver must apply for the Care Dependency Grant at SASSA offices.
5. The caregiver and the child must live in South Africa.
NOW WE ARE AT THE END OF THE CARE DEPENDENCY GRANT.

OVER TO THE DISABILITY GRANT.
CHAPTER 5
DISABILITY GRANT (DG)
CHAPTER 5
DISABILITY GRANT (DG)
Smiley G, you told us that the Care Dependency Grant is for children living with permanent disabilities, is there a similar social grant for adults living with disabilities?

I agree with Polly G, that is a good question. Yes, there is a social grant for adults living with disabilities. This social grant is called the Disability Grant.
A ‘disability’ is a condition that makes it difficult for someone to work or keep a job. Remember, disabilities can either be physical or mental. Some people are born with a disability. Sometimes a disability is caused by an accident.

Smiley G, you told us about disabilities of children. Is a disability of an adult, the same as that of a child?
Smiley G, one of our neighbours had an accident and she is now in a wheelchair. She does not work anymore and is at home all the time. Can she get a Disability Grant from the Government?

Maybe she can!!!

The Government helps people who are living with disabilities with the Disability Grant. This is for people who cannot work and earn enough money because of their condition.

Let me tell you more about this social grant...

* A person living with a disability must get a letter from the doctor. This doctor’s letter will explain that the person cannot work because the person is living with a disability.
* The Disability Grant is for people from the age of 18 years to 59 years.
* The person living with a disability must either be a South African citizen, permanent resident or a refugee.
Yes, all applications are done at SASSA offices. People living with disabilities will need the following to apply:

* Identity document.
* Marriage certificate – if the person living with a disability is married.
* Doctor’s letter – to tell the Government about their disability.
* Proof of income – to show how much money they earn. This is for the means test that we will tell you more about later.

That is a brilliant question!!!
Tell me children - what do we do when we are done learning about a particular social grant?

We always say five things that are important so that we can count them on our fingers!!!

Good, let us count to five!!!

The Disability Grant is given to:

1. People living with mental or physical disabilities.
2. People living with disabilities between the ages of 18 to 59 years.
3. People living with disabilities who are either South African citizens, permanent residents or refugees.
4. People living with disabilities who have a letter from the doctor explaining their disabilities to the Government.
5. People living with disabilities who have applied at SASSA offices.
NOW WE ARE AT THE END OF THE DISABILITY GRANT.

OVER TO THE OLDER PERSON'S GRANT.
CHAPTER 6
OLDER PERSON’S GRANT (OPG)
Polly G, is there a social grant for older people?

Yes there is - the Government helps older people with what we call the Older Person’s Grant.
Polly G, who can get an Older Person’s Grant?

Tell the children Polly G!

I will tell them Smiley G. Children, now listen very carefully – the Older Person’s Grant is ONLY for people who are 60 years and older.
Yes, there are rules for the Older Person’s Grant — here they are !!!

* You must be a South African citizen or permanent resident who lives in South Africa all the time.
* You must be 60 years and older.
* You will have to tell the Government about the things you own — like cars and houses — and how much money you have.
* Older persons must apply at SASSA offices to get the Older Person’s Grant.

There is also an extra rule ...
If older persons cannot look after themselves and someone else takes care of them on a full-time basis, then they can get extra money. This is called the Grant-In-Aid...but more about that later!
Yes, it is indeed important to keep documents in a safe place.

Important documents that are needed to apply for the Older Person’s Grant are:

* Identity document.
* A marriage certificate if married.
* Bank statement – to tell how much money older persons have.
What are the five important things you have learned about the Older Person’s Grant? Let us count to five:

1. Older persons must be 60 years and older.
2. Older persons must be South African citizens or permanent residents.
3. Older persons must tell the Government about things they own, like cars and houses.
4. Older persons must have their identity documents, marriage certificate (if married) and proof of income.
5. Older persons must apply at the nearest SASSA office.
NOW WE ARE AT THE END OF THE OLDER PERSON’S GRANT.

OVER TO THE WAR VETERAN’S GRANT.