

The Investment

By Jeremiah Pearson

Hi, my name is John and I became an investor at the age of 12 with just birthday money! Here's how it happened: our parents stopped paying for our living expenses including things such as Disney+ movies, toys, and video games. I know, everything a kid needs to live! So this summer, me and my friends Stacy, Mark, and my younger brother Josh decided to get jobs, including washing cars, selling old toys, and even selling lemonade. Well, I wanted a real job, not \$30, but \$50 a day. So I decided to make a proposition with my friends one that would get me money but no work.

I borrowed an idea I got from watching an episode of Shark Tank. What if I gave my friends money for a 45% share of their businesses? This was absurd to my friend Mark; he cleans the cars. He believed it should be lower since I wasn't doing anything. Then I told him I would also help manage his money. I knew he wanted this video game. "Hey Mark," I said, "what if I help you save to get that video game you wanted, *Slither Slimer*?"

Mark replied saying, "Sounds like a deal. Where do I sign?" I was in disbelief. I thought Mark would say no, so my first investment. I came back a little later with \$300 to take his business to the next level.

My next order of business was outside in the sun with Stacy "The Lemon Girl." She sells lemonade (don't tell anyone, but it's store-bought). I knew that she needed more equipment for her stand because it was hot and she was immensely sweaty. I started by saying "time for you to be a chill as the lemonade. I will lend you a tent for 45% share of your stock and buy you more lemonade".

Stacy replied saying "That may be the best proposition of your life John, but how are you going to calculate that?" I replied saying "My dad will do it." This convinced her. The last business I have 50% percent of the profits because it was my brother's business, the games he was selling were my old ones. I owned part of every business in our neighborhood except for Arby's across the street. I have given Stacy our tent. I convinced my dad by agreeing to play catch with him.

I was happy to buy the things I wanted, but at the end of the summer, I was out of money. Stacy and Mark went back to school and my brother and I ran out of games. The only investment left was in Disney+. I was heartbroken. Next time I would put my money into something more valuable; I would listen to my parents about how video games were not important and make more memories. So what I can take back from this summer was time I spent with my dad playing baseball and time spent with my friends.