



Let's Go Shopping

Newsletter



Grab your wallet—we're going shopping! From grocery stores to toy stores to the mall, shopping offers opportunities to practice visiting retail locations, purchasing items, and using different types of currency. The study of retail is a fun way for students to learn about the types of stores, merchandise for sale, and essential items that make up this common family outing.

This month's theme unit—*Let's Go Shopping*—focuses on the shopping experience with fun, original lessons that promote the practice of everyday life skill routines. Engaging lessons and hands-on activities guide students as they learn how to write shopping-related vocabulary words, sequence the steps of grocery shopping, count coins, explore food groups, identify when items are out of stock, and find alternatives to missing items. Group activities, art, social studies, science, cooking, and independent work lessons strengthen writing, math, and reading skills while helping students understand the ins and outs of this fundamental life skills routine.

Games, songs, thematic books, and circle games offer students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers. Lessons throughout the theme address a wide range of student skill levels. As students work through the unit, they gain listening and attention skills, build social relationships, strengthen academic knowledge, and achieve a greater understanding of the shopping experience.

Caregiver Connection Corner

Practice, practice, practice!

- Consider having your child participate in different activities related to shopping. Children can help make lists, cross off items, push carts or carry baskets, and put away groceries.
- Show the steps and offer help as needed, but also give your child space to complete steps as independently as possible!

Support positive behavior

- Consider using a brief schedule or list of activities to structure the shopping trip. Write down 3–4 steps (e.g., check list, get items, pay for items, leave store) or contact your child's teacher for shopping-related visual supports.
- For general visuals to support behaviors such as stop, wait, walk, and listen, go to starautismsupport.com, click on Free Home Supports, select the Home Supports option, click on Home Supports, then click Behavior Supports Icons.
- Ask your child to cross off or mark on the schedule when a step is completed.
- Provide a reward for completing the schedule if needed.

Math at the grocery store

- In this unit, your child is listening to a counting book about items in a grocery store. Bring the book to life on a shopping trip by naming items in the store and counting how many you see. Consider selecting items from the theme unit vocabulary listed below or follow your child's lead if they show interest in an item. If needed, count for your child, and encourage them to copy your words, or start by counting "1, 2 . . ." to encourage responding.

Theme Unit Vocabulary

Stores: Grocery Store, Mall, Toy Store

Shopping essentials: Cash, Cashier, Credit Card, Customer, Pay, Price, Purse, Receipt, Shopping Bags, Shopping Basket, Shopping Cart, Shopping List, Wallet

Grocery store: Bread, Candy, Cheese, Cookies, Eggs, Fish, Fruit, Ice Cream, Juice, Meat, Milk, Pasta, Pizza, Vegetables, Water

Mall: Clothing, Coat, Dress, Dressing Room, Escalator, Food Court, Pants, Shirt, Shoes, Store, Sweatshirt

Toy store: Balls, Blocks, Board Game, Cars, Dolls, Puzzle, Stuffed Animals

What We Are Learning About Shopping

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn-taking: "Minute to Win It"• Literacy: Writing vocabulary words• Life Skills: Identifying grocery store rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math: Counting coins• Movement: Ball pass game• Science: Trying new foods and understanding food groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shopping-themed cooking recipes• Social studies: Identifying when items are out of stock and choosing alternatives |
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Note From the Teacher