

Going shopping

Help your child to develop a range of skills with these shopping-based activities

The theme of 'Shopping' provides a wealth of opportunities for interesting play and craft activities, for example, designing and making colourful shopping bags, finding out about produce from other countries and making real gifts to sell at seasonal

events such as the summer fête or Christmas bazaar. Shopping can also be used to inspire exciting role-play scenarios such as 'The jewellery shop', 'The travel agents', 'The pet shop', 'The supermarket' and 'The fancy-dress shop'.

Market day

Help to develop your child's number skills using the 'Apples for sale' photocopiable sheet (see opposite). Colour the apples together using red, yellow and green felt-tipped pens or pencils. Use any colour combination, for example, 'one red, two yellow and seven green', or 'three red, four yellow and three green'. Ask your child questions such as 'How many red apples are for sale?', 'If we bought all the yellow and green apples, how many would we have altogether?', 'If one red apple was sold, how many red apples would be left?' and so on.



Top tip: Help your child to make model apples using red, yellow and green Plasticine or play dough. Set up a pretend market stall and use real or pretend coins to play shopping games that involve buying, selling and giving change.

Window shopping

Encourage your child's manual dexterity, decision-making skills and writing skills by inviting them to create a collage to represent a shop window. Talk about the type of shop that they would like to represent, for example, a toyshop, bakery or bookshop. Let your child select appropriate pictures from old magazines, catalogues or comics to cut out and stick on to a large sheet of card. Help your child to write simple labels to add to the window display, for example, 'For sale', 'Open', 'Closed' and 'Welcome'.



Top tip: Attach a small notepad and pen to the collage and display it on the wall or kitchen cupboard for writing real or imaginary shopping lists with your child.

Ten tins of beans

Encourage your child's listening and language skills by helping them to adapt and sing a new version of the rhyme, 'Ten Green Bottles'. For example, sing 'Ten tins of beans sitting on the shelf, ten tins of beans sitting on the shelf, but if one tin of beans should accidentally fall, there'll be nine tins of beans sitting on the shelf!' Sing alternative rhymes such as 'Ten treacle tarts sitting on the shelf', 'Ten lovely lollipops...', 'Ten pork pies...' and so on.



Top tip: Help your child to draw the ten items in your rhyme on to ten separate pieces of paper. Turn over the pictures as you sing the rhyme together.



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Useful books and resources

- *Going Shopping* by Jo Lodge (Pop-up, Macmillan Children's Books).
- *The Baby's Catalogue* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg (Puffin Books).
- *Scratch and Sniff Shopping* – an interactive board book (Dorling Kindersley).

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