



Just Shopping With Mom

By Mercer Mayer

Ages 4 and up

Parent Guide

Key Ideas: Prioritizing and Positive Interaction

Before You Read

The goal of *Money on the Bookshelf* is to help parents talk with their children about money. Each story deals with some special ideas about money. The Parent Guide will help you talk about and use these ideas.

Ideas, Definitions and Objectives

Idea: Prioritizing

Definition: Sometimes we need to choose among several things. Prioritizing is arranging things in order of their importance to us.

Objective: to decide which things are most important to do or to have.

Idea: Positive Interaction

Definition: Money and how it is used can cause arguments. Positive interactions about money means learning to use supportive words and behaviors that show that you recognize the worth of other people's ideas.

Objective: to increase the number of positive family interactions about money and how it is used.



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The Story

Mom braves the store with three youngsters. One has trouble accepting “no” for an answer.

Something to Think About

First, read the book yourself and think about these ideas.

Shopping with children can be a challenging experience.

Kids are easy targets for colorful store displays.

It is only natural to ask for things when the display looks so tempting.

Talking about rules before shopping may help children behave.

Decide before shopping what is important to have or do.

Children can help make the shopping list.

Children can help by finding items on the list.

Something To Talk About

Before you begin to read the story with your children, look at the cover of the book with them. Ask what they think the story will be about.

As you read the story with your children, talk about these ideas.

Where did the family go shopping?

How did the children help Mom at the store?

How did little sister help at the store?

How do your children help at the store?

What did little sister think it was important to have?

What did Mom think was important for the children to have?

What was the best part of the shopping trip?

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Something To Do

Wordless Shopping List (Ages 4 and up)

This activity will help your child help you shop at the store.

Many times your children may want to help at the store but they can not read.

Help them find the items you buy often by saving labels.

Glue or tape the labels to big pieces of paper.

This will become your child's shopping list.

Your child finds the items by matching the pictures on the list to labels in the store.

Playing Store (Ages 4 and up)

This activity will help your child learn about shopping and making choices at the store.

Help your child set up a store using his or her ideas.

Help your child collect cans, boxes, and sacks.

Help your child make price tags and play money for the store.

Be a shopper in your child's store.

Switch places and let your child buy something from you.

Sack Math (Ages 6 and up)

This activity will teach your child to decide what things are most important to buy.

On different pieces of paper, write down some money amounts (\$2, \$3, \$5) to spend at the play store.

Have each child pick a paper with a money amount to spend.

The shopper then tries to buy groceries that come as close as possible to the money amount on the piece of paper.

Help your child with adding up each shopper's bag.

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See who came closest to the money amount they had to spend.

Adapted from Money skills 101 Activities to Teach Your Child About Money by Bonnie Drew, The Career Press, 1992.

Role Play (Ages 8 to 10)

This activity will help you and your child learn to get along better when you shop. It helps parents and children see with each other's eyes.

Try this role reversal game in the play store or a real store, if you dare.

Parents and kids pretend to be each other on a shopping trip.

Ham it up.

Use each other's expressions and gestures.

Have fun.

After the game, tell each other how it felt to switch roles.

What did you learn about each other?

How will it change your shopping behavior?

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