



Just Shopping With Mom

By Mercer Mayer

Ages 4 and up

Parent Guide

Key Ideas: **Prioritizing and Positive Interaction**

Program Concept: The goal of Money on the Bookshelf is to help parents talk with their children about money. Each story deals with several money concepts (ideas). The Parent Guide will help parents talk about and use the concepts with their children.

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 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

The challenge of shopping with children is an experience all parents share. Kids are easy targets for colorful store displays and check-out counter goodies. It is only natural for them to want things that look so tempting.

The mom in the story decided what was important for her children to have. She let her children each pick one book. After shopping, they all got ice cream cones. Talking about rules before shopping may help children cooperate. Finding ways for children to help with shopping may make it a positive experience.

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 did your children help at the store?

What things did little sister think it was important to have?

What did Mom think was important to have?

What was the best part of the shopping trip?

What can children do to help make shopping easier for parents and kids?

Something To Do

Wordless Shopping List (Ages 4 and up)

This activity will help your child understand shopping priorities. Many times younger children want to help at the store but are unable to read a list. Help them find items purchased regularly by saving labels and gluing them on large pieces of paper. This will become the child's personal shopping list. He/she finds the items by matching the pictures on the list to the pictures in the store.

Playing Store (Ages 4 and up)

This activity will help the child create positive interactions around shopping. Help the child create a Play Store. Save empty packages of food, medicine and household items. Help make price tags and play money for the store. Be a shopper in the store. Then switch places and let your child buy something from you.

Sack Math (Ages 6 and up)

This activity will teach the child about prioritizing spending. Try this activity in the Play Store. On different pieces of paper, write various money amounts (\$2, \$3, \$5) to spend at the play store. Have each child pick a paper with an amount to spend. The shopper's goal is to buy a sack of groceries that comes as close to the amount he/she has to spend as possible. Parents can help the child with the adding. Add up each shopper's bag and see who can fill a sack closest to the amount he/she has 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 increase awareness of positive interactions around shopping. This game enables parents and kids to see with each other's eyes. Try this role reversal in the Play Store. Then try it in a real store.

First, parents and kids pretend to be each other on a shopping trip. Switch roles. Ham it up. Use each other's expressions and gestures. Have fun!

After the game, tell each other how it felt to switch roles. Did you learn anything about the other? Will you change your shopping behavior?

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