

# July 2020 - Shopping Fun

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Role playing everyday activities such as shopping is great fun and fantastic for language & learning. This activity is suitable for different ages from 2-5 years by adapting the language and learning during the play to your child's ability.

You can choose to make a specific shop, like a fruit and vegetable shop, or a toy shop, or a grocery store selling different things.

Use what you have at home, for example:

toy fruit, vegetables & everyday foods (or the real thing!)  
toys e.g. ball, train, duck, bubbles  
other items e.g. books, paint etc  
a basket or bag & purse and pretend money (or some real coins)  
a toy cash register/till if you have one (optional)

Take a moment to consider the environment for where you plan to play and what will work best for your child based on their specific hearing needs. Is hearing assistive technology being worn and working properly? Does your child need to see your face while communicating? Are you and the objects inside their "listening bubble"?

Sit across from your child to give them access to your face, sounds, signs, joint attention opportunities, and where possible reduce background noise and distractions.

Explain and discuss ahead what you'll be doing. 'Let's play shopping' 'What kind of shop should we make?' 'What would you find in a fruit & veg shop / toy shop / clothes shop?' - name as many items in the different categories as you can.

Set up your shop on a table and determine roles - it can help to have another adult or older child be the shopkeeper and for you to model your child's role as shopper, 'Joe can be the shopkeeper first, and then it's your turn'.

Model a little script for your child to follow, for example:

(knock knock) come in  
hello (good morning)  
hello  
what would you like?  
I would like an apple and some milk please  
here you are - \$2 please

thank you - (give some coins)  
bye  
bye

Practice a few times, and then swap roles

## Tips:

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-Help your child to develop their auditory memory by giving them 1, 2 or 3 items to buy depending on their age and language development.

-Encourage and model turn taking. Provide repeated opportunities to use new vocabulary.

-Introduce problems in the play and talk about possible solutions, e.g. 'Oh no - I have no money - what should I do?' 'We've run out of apples, would you like something else?'

-Practice early literacy skills by writing labels with your child for the items in the shop, drawing or creating your own paper money, highlighting initial letter sounds, e.g. 'what does bananas begin with?'

-If possible, follow up with a trip to go shopping for real life experience.

**\*\*Pick one or a few of these tips to focus on each time you play. Repetition is key to building vocabulary - so have fun playing this everyday activity many times this month!**