

Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 23



When it's not possible to visit shops with your child, you can set up your own shop at home! It's a great way for children to find out about what's sold in different kinds of shops and how money is used.

Happy shopping! 😊

What do I need?

- Items for the kind of shop your child wants to create.
- Real money (*Please wash thoroughly before use!*) Initially, 1p and 2p coins are sufficient.
- Items that can be used for a till, scanner etc.
- 🎵 [Let's Go Shopping](#) 🎵 is a catchy song to sing while you're setting up the shop.

What will your child learn from this play?

- Sorting items into categories, e.g. fluffy toys, dolls, cars.....etc.
- An understanding of why we use money
- Taking turns
- New vocabulary such as 'price', 'cost' and 'change'
- Number recognition. This will happen naturally as your child uses the coins – it doesn't need to be 'taught'.

What do we do?

- Discuss with your child what shop they would like to set up. A toy shop is usually a favourite, but they may have other ideas.
- Talk about the kind of things that could be sold in their shop.
- Discuss with your child where the best place is to locate their shop – the kitchen, bedroom, living room etc.
- Help your child gather items for their shop. This will need to be limited. A reminder that everything will need to be tidied away usually does the trick!
- Once all the items are gathered, discuss what else is needed, such as money, a till (a box will do!), shopping bags etc. Involve your child in gathering all the other things you need.
- Now you can play and talk together, perhaps taking turns to be the shopkeeper and the customer.
- When you've both had enough shopping, you could make a 'closed' sign – and perhaps an 'open' one for tomorrow!

How can you take it further?

Set up a different kind of shop – there's plenty to choose from!

If your child can recognise 1p and 2p coins, introduce coins of a higher value.

Make price labels for the items in the shop with your child.

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it