

FINDING THE MATHS AT THE SHOP

Shopping (like cooking) is probably the most recognisable activity that is linked with mathematics. Going to the shop is not just an opportunity to look at prices or estimate the cost of the grocery bill. There are several other activities that can lead to investigations in maths.



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Shopping Ideas

- Estimate how many of an item you will need, for example, how many lamb cutlets should we buy so we have enough for dinner?
- Use the scales in the grocery department to compare the mass of different fruits and vegetables
- Calculate how many bananas you will need to make one kilogram? Tomatoes? Potatoes? Grapes?
- Compare the cost of different items – What is the best value purchase?
- Calculate the possible savings when there is a percentage off sale (use the shortcut that if 10% of \$5 is 50 cents then 30% of \$5 would be three times that or \$1.50)
- Calculate whether you have spent over your budget – use estimation to help you, for example, if each item is about \$3 and there are 10 items, the total cost should be about \$30



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Money

With our tap and go society seemingly taking over our lives you may be surprised to know how little some children know about money, particularly the physical coins and notes.

- Talk to children about the different coins and notes we have in Australia
- Are all coins the same? Who is the person on the back? Where are the animals from? Who are the people on the notes? What are the other special features on the notes you notice? Why do we have these features?
- Encourage children to collect coins in a Money Box and save up for something they may want to purchase
- Put the coins in order (amount NOT size) and use the coins and notes to make different amounts



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Further ideas about helping your child learn about money can be found at the Australian Government's (ASIC) *Money Smart* website: <https://moneysmart.gov.au/teaching-resources>

For more information to support your child, download the **AMSI Schools Finding the Maths Parent Booklet**: <https://calculate.org.au/2017/11/21/finding-the-maths/>