

Activity: Playing shops

Create a fun and educational play activity with your child by setting up a pretend shop at home. This activity is engaging and educational, and can help your child develop language skills, improve memory and co-ordination and understand some simple mathematical language.

What you need

- Range of empty food packets and boxes, tins
- Till or a small box with some money to use as a till, old bank card (or store card etc)
- Optional - empty bags or boxes, shopping bags.

Activity

- Invite your child to visit your pretend shop
- Take it in turns to be the shopkeeper and the customer, modelling how to play the role
- Try asking questions like, "Please can I buy an apple and some cheese?". Gradually increase the number of items in shopping list and see if your child can remember all the items
- Provide money to use to pay for the items and encourage your child to count out the coins in exchange for the items or to role play using a card to pay for the items.



More ideas

- Make labels and price tags for your shop
- Make a different shop, such as a toy shop using your child's toys
- Write out a shopping list with your child and go shopping together.

Learning opportunities

- Develop language as your child repeats the names, answers questions and makes choices
- Introduce mathematical language counting out coins and pricing the items.