

Calculate the Cost

At school, your child is learning about percentages through real-world lessons on sales tax, discounts, and the actual cost of the things they buy. Extend the math learning at home with this eye-opening exercise.



Research: Find a local store’s sales circular or visit a website that’s running a sale. Choose two items that you’d love to buy for your family and write them on this chart. Then check out coupons, discount codes, and special offers to figure out your savings. Then add your state’s sales tax to calculate the final cost.

Item to Buy	Initial Cost	Cost After Discount	Sales Tax Rate in Your State	Final Price (Cost After Discount and Tax)
			%	
			%	

Take It Further: Your family can learn even more about money by working together to make a plan to save up so your child can purchase their favorite item. Ask your child:

How much can you save each week? _____

How many weeks will it take to save the total amount you need? _____

Do other stores offer a better buy for your item? (Tip: Comparison shopping can help you save money!)



MORE MONEY RESOURCES Dive into these digital flashcards of common financial literacy terms for families: bit.ly/3tRUKKO.