

Core Skills Analysis

Mathematics

Josie created a grocery list, recorded the regular prices of each item, and then clipped coupons to see the discounted prices. She performed subtraction to determine the savings for each product and added the discounted prices to find the total cost of her shopping trip. By comparing the totals with and without coupons, Josie practiced using decimals and proportional reasoning to evaluate which deals offered the greatest value. This activity reinforced her ability to calculate percentages and work with real-world numbers.

Language Arts

Josie read the text on each coupon, interpreting the fine print and promotional language to understand the terms of the discount. She then wrote a clear, organized grocery list that included item names, quantities, and price columns, practicing informative writing conventions. While sorting coupons, she highlighted key words such as "buy one get one free" and "save \$2.50," strengthening her vocabulary for consumer terminology. This process enhanced her reading comprehension of informational text and her ability to communicate data effectively.

Social Studies / Economics

Josie explored basic economic concepts by examining how coupons affect consumer choices and market pricing. She recognized that discounts can influence purchasing decisions and learned the role of promotions in a marketplace. By comparing prices, Josie began to understand budgeting, cost-benefit analysis, and the importance of making informed spending choices. The activity introduced her to personal finance fundamentals within a real-world context.

Tips

To deepen Josie's learning, have her track a week's worth of grocery spending in a spreadsheet to see how cumulative savings grow. Invite her to role-play as a store manager, creating her own coupons and explaining the marketing strategy behind each offer. Organize a family budgeting night where Josie compares different stores' flyers and decides where to shop for the best overall value. Finally, connect the activity to a community service project by donating any leftover coupons to a local food bank.

Book Recommendations

- [The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money](#) by Stan Berenstain & Jan Berenstain: A gentle story that introduces children to saving, budgeting, and the value of money through the Bear family's adventures.
- [Lemonade in Winter: A Book About Two Kids Counting Money](#) by Emily Jenkins: A fun narrative that blends counting, addition, and basic financial concepts as the protagonists save and spend money.
- [The Money Tree: A Story of Business, Money, and the Environment](#) by Sarah Stewart: An engaging tale that connects consumer choices, sustainability, and the economics of buying and saving.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NBT.B.7 – Perform operations with decimals to the hundredths place.
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.RP.A.3 – Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world problems involving price comparisons.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1 – Cite textual evidence from informational material (coupon text) to support understanding.

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to convey a clear purpose (grocery list and budgeting explanation).
- National Standards for Financial Literacy – Demonstrate understanding of personal budgeting, cost-benefit analysis, and consumer decision-making.

Try This Next

- Create a worksheet where Josie fills in a table of original price, coupon discount, discounted price, and calculates percentage saved for each item.
- Design a short quiz with multiple-choice questions about interpreting coupon language (e.g., "buy one get one free" vs. "20% off").
- Ask Josie to write a persuasive paragraph recommending the best store for a family grocery trip based on her price-comparison data.
- Set up a mini-experiment: visit two local stores, collect flyers, and compare the same items to see real-world price variations.