

# Money MOM™

## Planning ahead: Budget and shop with the kids for back-to-school fun

by Nanette Garrett

Summer's not gone yet, but this year's education doesn't have to wait for the first school bell to ring in September. Financial education can start early when your back-to-school shopping begins. If the kids have become bored with long summer days, use the excitement of back to school shopping—a fun tradition in many families—as your opportunity to do more than run around getting tissue, socks and pencils.



### Make shopping your teachable moment

Remember, kids learn differently. Use your creativity to tweak the following ideas to fit your child's needs and your financial situation. If you have any new or different ways of teaching children about money, please comment to me on the MOM Blog, [www.mommag.com](http://www.mommag.com) so other money moms can learn from you.

### Three easy stages for back-to-school shopping

#### 1. Before you shop

- » Take inventory of supplies and clothes.
- » Discuss the differences between needs and wants.
- » Decide what stores to visit.
- » Create a budget together based on what you can spend.

#### 2. Shop and shop some more!

- » Hit the road! Compare prices, look for sales, check newspapers, online coupons, the dollar stores.
- » Stock up on basics at discount stores (Dollar, etc.)
- » Discuss that saving in one area (clothes) can allow spending in another area (supplies)—or savings for the future.

#### 3. After you shop

- » Review your budget.
- » Talk about what was saved, spent, and any changes you might make next time.



### Meet Money MOM™

Nanette Garrett is a member service counselor for Pacific Cascade Federal Credit Union and a busy mother of three. If you've got a question about balancing the family budget, contact Nanette today.

As I reflect on what my parents spent on my school supplies and wardrobe when I was a kid, I'm sure things were cheaper back then. But at the same time, I know my parents had to budget to make sure I had what I needed, including new tennis shoes for the first day. Today, prices are higher and budgets are stretched extra thin, but with a little planning and including your kids, you'll have a lot of fun getting ready for when the bell rings in September.

### Ask Money MOM

Email [nanette@pacificcascade.org](mailto:nanette@pacificcascade.org) to ask me about money issues, from the family budget to selling your home. MOM Magazine and Pacific Cascade Federal Credit Union are teaming up to help out money managing moms.

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