

# Ready, Set, Shop!

## Kindergarten – Grade 1

Grocery shopping offers opportunities to let children apply a range of mathematics skills, including data collection and estimation.

### What You Need

- \* Pencil and paper
- \* Calculator

### What to Do

- \* To help your child learn about collecting data, involve him in making a shopping list for a special occasion, such as his birthday party. As you discuss what you need to buy, write out a list of grocery items. Then review the list with your child and tell him to make a check mark next to each item that you name. If you need more than one of an item, such as cartons of ice cream, tell him how many checks to make beside that item. Review the list with him and have him tell you what items—and how many of each—that you need to buy.
- \* Ask your child to choose something that he wants for dinner—a cake, a salad, tacos. Have him check to see what ingredients you already have; then ask him to help you make a shopping list. At the grocery store, let him find each item on the list. Help him to compare prices for different brands of the same items (such as boxes of cake mix) to see which items are the best buys.
- \* Ask your child questions such as, “Which is cheaper, this package of two tomatoes for \$1.50 or three of these tomatoes at 60 cents each?” Have him estimate, then check his answer with a calculator.

Using the advertised prices in a newspaper or flyer to estimate the cost of items on a shopping list can help children sharpen their mental math and estimation abilities.