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Get Your Kids Involved in Back-to-School Shopping: Some Teachable-Moment Tips

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As summer winds down, it's time for back-to-school shopping. Here are some [tips](#) to not only help you save time and money but to do with your kids to help teach them about money, budgeting and organizing.

- **Get the teacher-approved list.** Many teachers have lists of items they want their students to have.
- **Take an inventory of clothing and supplies you already have.** Then, set a budget and buy only what you need.
- **Use price comparison apps** to help you check for the best available price in real time. Many of these apps use your phone's camera to scan a product code. Then they search online databases to show you prices and information about similar products sold online or in stores. [*Darienite.com editor's note: See a list of some of them below.*]
- **Consider buying used or refurbished**, whether it's clothing, sporting equipment, electronics or musical instruments. Consignment and resale shops are a great place to find quality merchandise at deep discounts.
- **Take advantage of tax-free shopping.** Many states offer tax-free shopping days in August. It can be a great time to save on clothing and school supplies.
- **Ask about refund and return policies, including sale items.** Merchants often have different refund and return policies for sale items, especially clearance merchandise.
- **Save those receipts!** When you're [shopping online](#), keep copies of your order number, the refund and return policies, shipping costs and warranties.

For more money management tips, visit [Money & Credit](#).

For more tips on teaching your kids about money, budgeting and organizing, the FTC Consumer Information blog recommends the [Jump Start: Financial Smarts for Kids](#) website.

Other back-to-school-related stories:

- [From Now Till Darien's First Day of School, Events for Teachers and New Students](#) (Aug. 22)
- [Darien Police Advice to Teens, Parents on Driving to and from School — Safely](#) (Aug. 21)
- [The Amount of Clothing and Food We Buy and Don't Use Is Enormous — and Likely More Than You Think](#) (Aug. 19)
- [CT Sales Tax Free Week Coming Aug 19 to 25: What to Know](#) (Aug. 17)
- [How to Protect Your Children's Privacy as They Head Back to School](#) (Aug. 20)
- [How Darien Police Are Working with Schools in Town to Protect Students](#) (July 30)
- [Appeals for Donated School Supplies: \[...\]Darien Human Services' Runs Aug 13 to 30](#) (July 27)

Using the Web and Apps to Compare Prices

Darienite found [this list of price comparison apps and websites](#) at Oberlo.com. We haven't researched them

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and don't have any recommendations. We just link to them as resources that you could try:

Some Price Comparison Apps

[ShopSavvy](#)

[PricePirates](#)

[BuyVia](#)

[Pricena](#)

[Now Discount](#)

[ScanLife](#)

[ShopMania](#)

[Quick Scan](#)

Some Price Comparison Websites

[Google Shopping](#)

[Yahoo Shopping](#)

[BizRate](#)

[CamelCamelCamel](#)

[NextTag](#)

[Pronto](#)

[Price Runner](#)

[Idealo](#)

[PriceSpy](#)

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