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STRATEGIES THAT CAN HELP SAVE DURING THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE

With the back-to-school season on the horizon and worries about increased expenses, this guide provides valuable strategies for saving money during this annual shopping spree. Here are some practical tips to help you manage this season while staying within your budget. By implementing these strategies, you can navigate the back-to-school shopping season with confidence, ensuring your child has what they need for the upcoming school year without straining your finances.

For more support, take a look at our community resources below or reach out to us at info@aocan.org, or call 519-208-5333

Community Resources: <https://aocan.org/resources/>

We encourage you to use or share our well researched resource sheets with your networks and organizations but we respectfully request that you honour our copyright and leave our branding intact.



1. Start Early And Plan Ahead

Avoid the last-minute rush, which can lead to overspending. Begin your shopping early in August or even earlier to have ample time to search for deals and avoid missing out on discounted items. Create a list of essential items your child needs for the upcoming school year.

2. Shop Second-Hand

Consider buying gently used items from platforms like Poshmark or local thrift stores. Second-hand shopping can save you a significant amount of money, especially when compared to the prices at malls. Look for high-quality, pre-loved items that are still in good condition.

3. Reuse and Recycle

Take inventory of items from the previous school year that can be reused. Binders, backpacks, calculators, and other supplies can often be repurposed for another year. Investing in reusable containers for lunches/meals is also a great way to budget and reduces costs. This step alone can drastically cut down your shopping list and expenses.

4. Set A Budget

Determine how much you're willing to spend overall and allocate specific amounts for different categories such as clothing, school supplies, and accessories. Having a budget in place will help you avoid overspending and make more conscious choices.



5. Shop Strategically

Keep an eye out for sales, discounts, and coupons. Back-to-school sales events are common, but don't limit yourself to shopping only in August. Deals may continue into September, allowing you to snag even better offers on items your child needs. Consider multi packs of items if feasible to have items available to replenish broken or used or at home.

6. Shop Out Of Season

Take advantage of end-of-season sales. This approach allows you to purchase items like clothing at reduced prices. Consider stocking up on summer clothes for the following year when stores clear out their seasonal inventory. By shopping out of season, you can make significant savings while still obtaining high-quality items for your family's needs. Offer your used clothes to someone else in exchange for different sizes. Be open to accepting used clothes from others and then passing on what you don't want.

7. Participate In Rewards Programs

Engage in paid online surveys or loyalty programs that offer gift cards or discounts on clothing and school supplies. These rewards can be used to offset your expenses during the back-to-school shopping spree.



8. Find An Agency That Has Back-To-School Programs

Many agencies and organizations like Aocan.org collect donations for back to school which includes clothing, backpacks, school supplies and even tech if needed. Some like our organization may even have presents so your child can attend birthday parties, and Halloween costumes for younger children to borrow. Reach out to your local agencies to find out which of your needs could be met without any cost.

9. Involve Your Child

Make your child a part of the shopping process. While hunting for discounts, include them in selecting items they like. This not only ensures their preferences are considered but also makes the experience more engaging for them.

10. Prioritize Practicality Over Brand Names

As kids get older, they may become more interested in brand names. However, prioritize practicality over brand preferences to avoid overspending. Explain the importance of making wise choices and understanding the value of money.

11. Stay Informed

Keep an eye on trends, deals, and offers throughout the year. Subscribe to newsletters from stores or online platforms to receive updates on sales and discounts, allowing you to make informed purchasing decisions.