Grocery Conversation Cards

Everyday Language & Learning Opportunities
How to use the cards:

Use these cards as a starting point for continued conversations around your home and in community spaces. The front of the card suggests simple vocabulary words to use with infants and toddlers. Vocabulary words can be used while labeling or talking about what’s around you. The back of the card has some open-ended questions to promote more advanced conversation with older preschool aged children.

Tips for conversations with children:

1. **QUESTION** Start with an open-ended (how, why, what) question that needs more than a one word answer. This helps to get children talking.
2. **REPEAT** Repeat what the child has said to reinforce their response.
3. **STRETCH** Build on the child’s response with a longer sentence to build vocabulary.
4. **TALK+** Continue to talk with the child by going back and starting with another question. You can continue the process of a Question, Repeat, and Stretch creating a conversation.
5. **HAVE FUN** Conversations are a great way to connect and build vocabulary.
Let’s talk about directions...
up, down, next to
There are signs all around us...

Which do you spy with your eagle eye?

- What do they say?
- Why are they there?
- How do signs help us?
- What is the most common sign you see? Why do you think you see it so often?
Let's talk about shapes...
circles, squares, cylinders
There are shapes all around us...

• Soups cans are cylinders...
• Oranges are spheres...
• How many different shapes can you spy? Tell me about them.
Let's talk about colors...

purple
orange
beige
Let’s talk about colors and patterns...

How many things can you spy that are...

- Orange?
- Green?
- White?

How are they the same but also different?
Let’s talk about counting...

how many, more, less
Let’s estimate...

- How many different types of vegetables do you think there are?
- How many aisles do you think are in the store?
- How many cash registers do you think the store has?
- How many people do you think are in the store?
- How many items do you estimate are in our cart?
- Tell me how you made your estimation.
Let’s talk about sorting...

same
different
Let’s classify...

What are all the ways we could sort what’s in our cart?

• Size
• Color
• Frozen or raw
• Canned or boxed
• Edible or inedible
Let’s talk about groups...

bundle, pair, single
Let’s talk about groups and singles…

What is sold as a set or a group?

- Eggs
- Sliced cheese

What is sold as a single item?

- Carton of milk
- Box of cereal

How do you know?
Let’s talk about observations...
how many, where, when
Let’s talk about what we see and notice...

- Which checkout line should we choose? Why?
- Which checkout line will be the fastest?
- Tell me how you know.
Let’s talk about measurements...

heavy, light, big, medium, small
Let’s talk about measuring...

• What’s the heaviest item in our cart? Can you think of something heavier?
• What’s the lightest item for sale in this store?
• How do you know?
Grocery shopping trips are filled with Everyday Language and Math Learning Opportunities.

Visit our website for additional resources.
Everyday Language & Learning Opportunities

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