

5 TIPS FOR BUYING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

BY KATI KIEFER

School supplies are something that affects every single family with children. Regardless if the child attends private, public, or homeschool, all will need writing utensils and paper. Next to Christmas, school supply shopping is my personal favorite time of year. I love the new styles and gadgets. It feeds my desire to scrapbook while giving me hope that I will become more efficient. Plus, no matter how hard I try, our house just never has enough pairs of scissors! Let me share with you five tips I use when purchasing my back-to-school supplies.

1

HAVE A BOTTOM PRICE

Couponers call this their "Buy Price" or the "Stock Up Price." It is the price you are willing to pay for something. For most school supplies, you can apply the 50¢ rule, meaning you will only pay 50¢ or less per item (excluding large items such as backpacks). Right now, lots of products will be priced around 30¢ or less.

2

STOCK UP FOR THE YEAR

It may seem crazy to buy a year's supply of crayons right now, but really, that is only a couple extra boxes that will not spoil or go to waste. Purchasing them now at their lowest price will save you in the long run. It is also a great time to choose items to donate, demonstrating firsthand to your children the value of giving.

3

USE DISCOUNT CODES FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

I regularly use the GeoQpons App for discount codes on brand-specific items. For example, buying a backpack from L.L.Bean? Check the app for a discount code before checking out online. It even works the same way while you are shopping inside a store such as Kohl's or Sears. Just show the cashier the code on your phone and bask in the easy savings!

4

GET CASH BACK FOR ALL ONLINE PURCHASES

eBates is a website in which you earn money back on all your online purchases. Regardless of having a discount code, it calculates earnings on the total spending. While you can save money immediately with a discount code, eBates allows you to earn cash back on the amount you actually spend.

5

REGISTER CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS WITH UPROMISE

Earn money towards college. By registering your cards, every time they are used (even at grocery stores) promotional deposits are made into your account. The savings will add up before you know it! This program helps you to save money without any intentional labor.

Kati Kiefer is the founder of TrueCouponing.com, a faith-based ministry that teaches and inspires people to save money and bless others. Kati is an accountant by training and a mom by the grace of God. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, James, for 14 years. They are headed into their ninth year of homeschooling their four children. They attend Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, FL, and Kati's favorite school supply is Post-It Notes (all sizes)! ■

*SALES TAX HOLIDAY: AUGUST 3RD-5TH