

Keepin' It Real: Applying Academic Skills to Life Outside the Classroom

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Myths About Functional Academics

1. Functional activities do not require the use of academic skills or knowledge.
2. Learning functional academics in the classroom is the same as in a real-world setting.
3. All we do is brush our teeth!

Facts About Functional Academics

1. Functional activities use academic skills such as:
 - a. Math (time, money, calendar, measurement)
 - b. Reading (reading, comprehension, written expression)
 - c. Science (knowledge of weather, cooking, health, diet and exercise)
 - d. Social Studies (knowledge of community and travel)
2. Real-world settings provide a full and often varied experience for students to practice what they are learning in the classroom first hand.
3. Daily living skills require that you read labels and directions, measure products, manage your time, etc.
(And yes, sometimes we do brush our teeth.)

Benefits of Real-World Settings

- ▶ **Real-world application experiences:**
 - ▶ Help to build confidence
 - ▶ Spotlight areas of need
 - ▶ Allow opportunities for problem-solving
 - ▶ Provide natural consequences
 - ▶ Increase flexibility
 - ▶ Help individuals achieve their dreams and goals as they increase independence

Bonus Benefits

- ▶ **Using academic skills outside the classroom provides opportunities to practice:**
 - ▶ Community skills (transportation, directions)
 - ▶ Social skills
 - ▶ Self-care skills
 - ▶ Responsibility
 - ▶ Decision-making
 - ▶ Communication
 - ▶ Self-Advocacy
 - ▶ Problem solving
 - ▶ Safety skills

Reading at Home

▶ Things we read:

- ▶ Recipes
- ▶ Labels (groceries, medicine, cleaning and personal care products)
- ▶ Directions (games, clothing tags)
- ▶ Books, magazines, newspapers
- ▶ Notes, cards, texts, emails
- ▶ Bills
- ▶ Receipts
- ▶ Mail
- ▶ Lease, manuals and warranties
- ▶ Flyers, coupons and catalogs

Why is it important?



Using Math at Home

▶ We use math to:

- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Cook
- ▶ Maintain a calendar (appointments, time-off, planning events)
- ▶ Decorate
- ▶ Store food
- ▶ Shop (having enough money, determining sales prices)
- ▶ Pay bills
- ▶ Tracking calories/diet
- ▶ Set the table
- ▶ Make repairs and clean

Why is it important?



Stirring All the Skills Together!

- ▶ Preparing a meal means:
 - ▶ Shopping for the ingredients
 - ▶ Purchasing ingredients
 - ▶ Reading a recipe or directions
 - ▶ Determining prep and cook times
 - ▶ Measuring ingredients
 - ▶ Cooking the meal
 - ▶ Setting the table
 - ▶ Storing leftover food
 - ▶ Using leftovers before they spoil

Reading for Work

- ▶ **Things we read:**
 - ▶ Job advertisements
 - ▶ Job applications
 - ▶ Forms (tax, insurance and time-off requests)
 - ▶ Directions for tasks and machines
 - ▶ Signs (bathroom, elevator, breakroom)
 - ▶ Emails and correspondence

Why is it important?



Wal-Mart is looking for a **part-time greeter** to work in our North Reading store.

Job duties include:

- saying hello to customers
- helping customers get their shopping carts
- putting stickers on items customers are returning

Wal-Mart greeters must have a great attitude and be very friendly! Greeters put a smile on our customers' faces!

Job hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9am to 12pm.

Please bring this ad with you to the store to fill out an application.

Wal-Mart
72 Main St
North Reading, MA

Using Math at Work

- ▶ **We use math to:**
 - ▶ Determine our wages
 - ▶ Meet deadlines
 - ▶ Plan a commute
 - ▶ Decide on a job (based on wage and commute length)
 - ▶ Report to work on time
 - ▶ Schedule meetings
 - ▶ Ask for a raise

Why is it important?



Calling All Applicants

- ▶ Applying for a job means:
 - ▶ Reading a job advertisement
 - ▶ Calculating rate of pay
 - ▶ Filling out forms with personal information
 - ▶ Determining whether rate of pay is enough to cover your expenses
 - ▶ Writing a resume
 - ▶ Interviewing for a position
 - ▶ Responding to decision/offer

Reading in the Community

▶ Things we read:

- ▶ Signs (safety, store hours and logos, aisles, street)
- ▶ Travel directions/map
- ▶ Transportation schedules
- ▶ Movie listings
- ▶ Directories
- ▶ Menus
- ▶ Coupons, ads and labels

Why is it important?



Using Math in the Community

- ▶ **We use math to:**
 - ▶ Make a purchase
 - ▶ Determine travel times
 - ▶ Eat at a restaurant
 - ▶ Schedule and pay for leisure activities
 - ▶ Determine business hours
 - ▶ Calculate discounts

Why is it important?

The image shows two promotional coupons from Banana Republic. The left coupon is for 'BANANA REPUBLIC FACTORY' and offers 'EXTRA 40% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE'. The right coupon is for 'BANANA REPUBLIC' and offers '50% OFF REGULAR-PRICED ITEMS'. Both coupons provide online codes and instructions for in-store use.

Brand	Discount	Code	Usage
BANANA REPUBLIC FACTORY	EXTRA 40% OFF	FACTORY40	YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
BANANA REPUBLIC	50% OFF	PBGH4RC7LWJB	REGULAR-PRICED ITEMS

NO BANANA REPUBLIC OR BANANA REPUBLIC FACTORY

Let's Go To the Movies!

- ▶ Meeting a friend for a movie means:
 - ▶ Reading a movie listing
 - ▶ Determining if you have enough money for a ticket
 - ▶ Planning a date on your calendar
 - ▶ Calculating travel time
 - ▶ Reading a transportation schedule
 - ▶ Paying for transportation and movie ticket
 - ▶ Arranging a pick up time to go home

Money Madness

- ▶ Buying an item means:
 - ▶ Number identification
 - ▶ One-to-one correspondence
 - ▶ Grouping/representation
 - ▶ Skip Counting
 - ▶ Rounding
 - ▶ Comparing price of item to money in your wallet
 - ▶ Counting change



Money Madness in Action



Signs, Symbols and Logos



**Tell me and I forget. Teach me
and I remember. Involve me
and I learn.**

-Benjamin Franklin