

Money — Counting Mixed Coins and Making Change

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child practices counting mixed groups of pennies, nickels, and dimes, learning to start with the highest value coin and count on. They play store with simple purchases and begin the concept of making change.

What You Need:

- Real US coins: pennies (20), nickels (10), dimes (10)
- Small items with price labels (10-35 cents)
- Play store setup
- Paper and pencil for recording amounts

Steps:

1. Review coin values: penny = 1, nickel = 5, dime = 10.
2. 'When counting mixed coins, start with the BIGGEST value first! Dimes first, then nickels, then pennies.'
3. Practice: 2 dimes, 1 nickel, 3 pennies. 'Count with me: 10, 20 (dimes), 25 (nickel), 26, 27, 28 (pennies), 28 cents!'
4. Several more practice counts with different combinations.
5. Play store: items cost 10-35 cents. Child pays with exact change.
6. Introduction to change: 'The toy costs 15 cents. You gave me 20 cents. How much do I give back?'
7. Use coins to figure out the change.

Work Space:

