

Money Introduction — Penny, Nickel, Dime

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child is introduced to US coins: penny (1 cent), nickel (5 cents), and dime (10 cents). They learn to identify each coin by sight and touch, understand its value, and begin counting mixed coins.

What You Need:

- Real US coins: pennies (20), nickels (10), dimes (10)
- Coin identification cards with pictures and values
- Small items to 'buy' (pencil, sticker, toy)
- Price labels
- Sorting tray

Steps:

1. Present real coins on a tray: several pennies, nickels, and dimes.
2. Penny: 'This is a PENNY. It is worth 1 cent. It is copper-colored. See Abraham Lincoln on the front!'
3. Nickel: 'This is a NICKEL. It is worth 5 cents — the same as 5 pennies! It is bigger than a penny but thicker.'
4. Dime: 'This is a DIME. It is worth 10 cents — the same as 10 pennies! It is the smallest coin but worth the most.'
5. Sort coins by type. Count groups of each.
6. 'How many cents in 3 pennies? In 2 nickels? In 1 dime and 2 pennies?'
7. Play 'store': price small objects at 5, 10, 15 cents and pay with coins.

Work Space:

A large dashed rectangular box with a thin brown border, designed for children to draw or write in.

Montessori Homeschool • Print on US Letter (8.5 x 11") • Activity sheet — print on standard paper