

Money — Counting Coins and Simple Purchases

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child practices counting mixed groups of pennies, nickels, and dimes, then uses coins to make purchases in a play store. This consolidates coin identification, counting, and making exact change.

What You Need:

- Real US coins: pennies (20), nickels (10), dimes (10), quarters (4)
- Items with price labels (up to 50 cents)
- Cash register or money tray
- Paper for recording transactions

Steps:

1. Quick review: penny = 1 cent, nickel = 5 cents, dime = 10 cents.
2. Counting challenge: Give the child random groups of coins to count. Start with dimes first!
3. 'How many different ways can you make 25 cents?' Explore: 2 dimes + 1 nickel, 5 nickels, 1 dime + 3 nickels, etc.
4. Introduction to QUARTER: 'There is a special coin worth 25 cents — a QUARTER!' Show it.
5. Play store with prices up to 50 cents.
6. 'Can you make EXACT change for each item? What is the fewest coins you can use?'
7. Begin change-making: 'You paid 30 cents for a 22 cent item. How much change?'

Work Space:

