

**Title:** Counting Coins

**Goals of this lesson:**

Youth will:

- discover the difference between various coins
- learn that different coins have different values

**What You Need to Know:** penny=1 cent, nickel=5 cents, dime=10 cents, quarter=25 cents, half dollar=50 cents, dollar coin=100 cents

**Materials Needed:**

A pile of mixed coins making sure to have at least one of each type of coin

Paper, pencils, colored pencils, or clay

Animal crackers and other store items

**Learning Activity:**

1. Have the youth separate coins into like piles (all the pennies in one pile, all the nickels in another, etc.). Have them count the number of coins in each pile. If the youth are older, have them total up the amount of all the coins.
2. Have the youth select one or two coins and do a coin rubbing by taking a sheet of white paper and placing the coin beneath it. Use a colored pencil or regular pencil and lay the lead flat against the paper on top of the coin and have the child rub it until the image of the coin appears. You may also use clay and mold it around each coin. Discuss the difference between the coins asking some of the following questions:
  - a. What color is the coin?
  - b. Does it have a rough edge?
  - c. Which coin is largest or smallest?
  - d. What do you see on the coins (presidents, buildings, trees, etc)?
3. Give the child five pennies and one nickel. Have the child “buy” five animal crackers together with the nickel and then singly with a penny each. Set up other play store opportunities at home where the youth can buy different items using different coins.

## Other Fun Things to Do:

- Visit the store and give the child 50 cents or a dollar and let the child purchase an item.
- Have the youth count items as they are put into the cart.
- Save money in clear containers so they can see it increasing.
- Conduct a treasure hunt for coins in a room at home. Sort into like piles and count.

Read a book:

- Williams, Rozanne L. 2001. **The Coin Counting Book**. Charlesbridge Publishing. ISBN: 0881063266. This unique book offers the young reader the opportunity to see the coins in detail and to appreciate their value. The book begins with counting pennies in relation to a nickel and then to a dime. Then nickels and dimes in relation to quarters; all denominations in relation to a fifty cent piece; and finally how many coins does it take to make a dollar. Every option for pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters is illustrated in words and numbers. The coins are written in words and numbers next to their "realistic" portrayal. The end of the book puts the coins in vertical stacks with their value. This book is a good way to introduce simple math to children.
- Chizuwa, Masayuki. 2007. **My First Book of Money: Counting Coins**. Kumon Publishing. **ISBN-13:** 9781933241425. If your child can add numbers up to 100, and is familiar with the concept of money, then this workbook will build on that foundation. Use this book as a fun and easy introduction to coins and their value, which will help strengthen your child's mathematical skills.

**Written and submitted by:** Leanne Manning, Extension Educator

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