

Penny, Nickel, Dime

Kindergarten-Grade 1

Activities that involve money are a good way to develop mathematical reasoning and to reinforce what children are learning in school about numbers and arithmetic operations, such as addition and subtraction.

What You Need

- * Dice
- * Pennies, nickels, dimes

What to Do

This is a good game to play with the family.

- * Have each player roll the dice and say the number. Then give the player that number of pennies. Explain that each penny is worth one cent.
- * When a player gets five pennies, replace the pennies with a nickel. Explain that five pennies have the same value as one nickel—that is, five cents. When she gets five more pennies, replace the pennies and the nickel with a dime. Help her to see that the value of five pennies plus the value of a nickel (five cents) equals 10 cents, which is the value of a dime.
- * The first player to reach a set amount—25 or 50 cents, for example—wins.

Children can be confused by money. Some might think that the larger a coin is, the more valuable it is—so a penny or nickel would be more valuable than a dime.