

Enjoy these simple activities with your child to help them understand the value of money

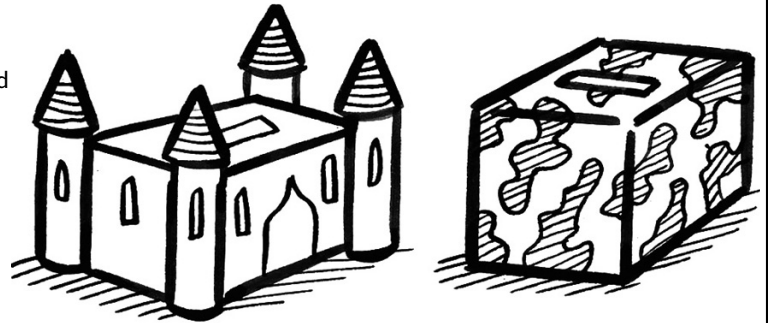
A theme based on 'Money' provides an excellent focus for purposeful and interesting play and craft activities at home and in the setting. Creative skills can be developed by making a 3-D model of a cash register to hold real or pretend coins for imaginative play, manipulative skills can

be encouraged by sewing a simple purse or wallet, social skills can be developed during role-play scenarios based on working in a bank, shop or post office and mathematical skills can be reinforced while counting and identifying coins of different values.

My money box

Help your child to make and decorate a money box. Provide a sturdy box with a slit in the top and discuss decorative ideas that reflect your child's taste and interests, for example, the box could be turned into a fairytale palace, covered in army-style camouflage, painted in a favourite colour or covered in collage materials.

Top tip: Become your child's helpful assistant, as you decorate the box together.



How much?

Invite your child to play a game called 'How much?'. Label six toys with a price tag showing 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p and 6p. Place 21 1p coins in a shared purse. Take turns to throw a dice. If the dice shows the number 2, for example, that player must select two 1p coins to 'buy' the toy priced 2p. Place the coins in a toy till or money box. If the toy priced at 2p has already gone, the dice is passed to the next player. Continue in this way until all the toys have been sold. The player with the most toys wins or the game can be just for fun.

Top tip: Extend the game by labelling 12 toys priced 1p to 12p. Place a selection of 1p, 2p and 5p coins in a purse to the value of 78p or more. Throw one dice to 'buy' toys priced up to 6p or two dice to 'buy' toys priced between 7p and 12p.

Marvellous money men

Encourage your child's coin recognition skills by helping them to draw around different coins to create imaginary characters and their pets. Provide a sample of each coin, real or pretend, to draw around, for example, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2. Talk with your child about the coins, for example, 'Which coin are you using now?', 'Have you used the 2p coin yet?', 'How many times have you drawn around the 1p coin?'

Top tip: Help your child to colour in the outlines, add smiley faces and draw background scenery such as shops, trees and flowers. Label the characters with money-themed names such as 'Mr Money', 'Miss Pound' and 'Penny the dog'.



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Useful books and resources

- Electronic Cash Register, price £15, Let's Go Shopping Game, price £6 and Play Money set, price £3, all available from Early Learning Centre, tel: 08705 352 352 or visit www.elc.co.uk
- *Going Shopping* by Jo Lodge (£5.99, Campbell Books).

- Visit www.bgfl.org/bgfl (select 'Foundation Stage', then 'Mathematical Development'). Use the large arrow to select worksheets, games and useful information on money.

- Euro Play Money, priced from £3.50, available from Early Start Languages, visit www.earlystart.co.uk