



# Introduction

Welcome to *Specific Skills: Money*. This collection of practice pages, hands-on activities, and easy-to-play learning games has been designed to help students, especially struggling learners, develop an understanding of the concepts of money. Use the materials offered in this book in a variety of ways, including whole-group lessons, as independent student work, in a learning center, and as at-home enrichment activities. The lessons in *Specific Skills: Money* address the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Standards by building number sense, strengthening problem-solving skills, and encouraging communication.

## How to Use the Book

The activities in this book address the needs of students just beginning to recognize coins and their values as well as those children who would benefit from additional practice in calculating the worth of coin groupings. To get started, have your students complete Pretest/Posttest A or B. Then, select the appropriate activities for your students by turning to the corresponding parts of the book as identified in the Table of Contents.

Before young learners, especially children with special needs, complete practice pages that feature pictures of coins, it is important for them to have experiences identifying real coins. For some children, it is difficult to grasp the concept that the dime is worth 10¢ even though it is smaller than the penny and the nickel. It may be beneficial for students to use magnifying glasses to look closely at those coins. Help children find the words “one cent” (on the penny) and “five cents” (on the nickel). The amount of cents is not printed on the dime, just the name of the coin. By first working with real coins, children can flip them over to look for special wording if necessary and also can compare sizes and colors for identification while counting the cents. As they work, children can place the money on copies of the Piggy Bank Mat (provided on page 8).

Another skill that children must internalize is that single coins and groups of coins with equivalent values can be exchanged. Consider having children play the game Bagging Coins (see page 49 for directions) with real coins to help them recognize opportunities when it is appropriate to trade pennies for nickels and nickels for dimes. Later, when students can quickly identify real coins, have them work with copies of the Piggy Bank Mat and coin cards on pages 8 and 9 for money activities that are generated by the teacher.

A tool that may be effective in helping special learners visualize the value of coins is the Cents 1–100 chart and value strips. To make the chart, copy the patterns on page 10 and 11. Cut along the dashed line. Glue the panels to the inside of a file folder, overlapping the sections as indicated. Copy the value strips on page 12 onto card stock and cut them out along the solid black lines. Then, as children count dimes and nickels, have them place the corresponding strips on the chart. To count the pennies, place each coin in a separate box.

Throughout the book, there are many pictures of collections of coins for children to determine total values. To help young learners experience success with these activities, be sure they can count by 5s and 10s up to 100 before asking them to complete similar tasks on paper.

In addition to class use, you may consider selecting some of the practice pages and games for home activities. Perhaps there are specific coin values that a student struggles to learn. Have the child take home a copy of the Piggy Bank Mat on page 8, the cards on page 9 (select those coins that are appropriate for the child to use), and the Cents Cards on page 56. These materials can easily be included with a copy of the Letter to Parent. Learning about money concepts can be fun, and more easily mastered, with activities and games!



# Learning How to Count Coins

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In math class, your child will be learning how to identify coins and determine the total values of collections of coins. These important skills are sometimes difficult for children to acquire. Whenever it is possible, help your child learn to recognize money by looking at the heads and tails of coins, determine how much each kind is worth in cents, and find the total value of groups of coins. If possible, spend a few minutes with your child doing the activities and reading one of the book selections included below:



## Activity: Picking Up Pennies

**Directions:** Gather about 30 pennies and a few of other kinds of coins. Scatter them on a tabletop (showing some heads and some tails). Have your child work quickly to pick up only the pennies in one minute. (If appropriate, shorten the length of the time.) When finished, your child can count the cents collected and then write the total on a piece of paper. Be sure the cent sign is included with the total. Repeat the game as time and interest allow. Alternatively, have your child pick up nickels or dimes instead of pennies.

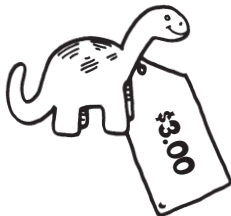
## Activity: Counting Cash

**Directions:** Create three different groupings of coins. Before counting the cents, have your child quickly predict which collection of coins has the greatest value. Then, determine how much each grouping is worth. Award your child a point for each correct answer and also if the prediction was true. Repeat the game as interest allows.

## Books to Share:

*Jelly Beans for Sale* by Bruce McMillan (Scholastic Press, 1996).

With photographs of colorful jelly beans and coins, children will learn to associate how much candy can be purchased with money—one jelly bean for 1¢, five jelly beans for 5¢, six jelly beans for 6¢ (one nickel and one penny), and so on. Learning about coins will be a “yummy” experience with this book!



*You Can't Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime* by Harriet Ziefert (Blue Apple Books, 2003).  
Clink, clink, clink—as the money is dropped into the bank, Pete is learning how to identify the values of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. The reader will learn along with Pete how easy it is to spend money and how hard it is to earn more for future purchases. Additional activities and facts about money are provided in the back of the book.

Thank you for your assistance,