

Number Sense

Concept: Counting and Estimation

Grade Level: Grades 1-3

Materials Needed:

- Fake coins of one denomination
- A small container with a lid (non see through)

Step 1. Place several coins in a small container.

Step 2. Students pass the container and each student estimates the amount of money it contains. Student may shake the container and even reach into the container and feel the coins without looking.

Step 3. After writing down their estimates, students should count to find the actual amount of money in the container. Have the students submit their estimates and amounts on a small slip of paper.

Step 4. At the end of the day, announce the names of the students who counted the money correctly and let the students know exactly how much money was in the container. Have one of the students who counted correctly show the rest of the class how he or she got the correct amount. If there are only a few who counted incorrectly, you may want to work with them one-on-one, or have a friend help them.

Variations:

If your students have not yet worked with estimation, you may save that part of the activity for later. If your students are learning how to count, put only pennies in the container. If they are learning to count by fives, place only nickels in the container. If your students are learning how to multiply two-digit numbers, place only dimes, quarters, or half-dollars in the container. Also, require student to show how they could use multiplication to count money.

If your students are learning how to sequence numbers, this activity will help them practice that skill as well. Keep a record on the chalkboard of the daily money totals. At the end of the week, have the students write these amounts in order from least to greatest. In addition, you can have students answer questions such as, "Which day did the box hold the most amount of money?" or, "Which two days was the value of the money the same?"