

## **Building Mathematical Thinkers: Mini-Activities**

### *It Just Makes Cents*

**Objective:** Second Grade Money  
Using strategies to count money within 99¢.

**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes

**Materials:** 9 pennies and 9 dimes and a target sheet for each small group of students, a recording sheet for each student

#### **Description:**

1. Lay the target sheet on the floor. Demonstrate dropping the coins on the target sheet. Discuss ways to drop (from high or low, all at once or one at a time, etc.)
2. Students drop the coins. The goal is to get as many coins as possible to land on the target.
3. Students record their own data for how many coins land on the target. Students must record the number of dimes, and number of pennies and then the total value for the round.
4. After each student has taken his turn, the student whose coins totaled the highest wins the round.
5. Students record the winner of the round on their recording sheets.
6. Continue for 5 rounds. The student who wins the most rounds is the winner.

#### **Differentiation Suggestions:**

1. Use a smaller amount of coins.
2. Use quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies.
3. Allow students to work in pairs.

#### **Probing Questions:**

1. What is the most value that your coins could add up to?
2. Why do you think that only 3 coins landed on the target this time, when last time 8 landed on the target?
3. What strategies are you using to get the coins to land on the target?
4. How many people had exactly 10 coins land on the target this round?
5. How did you determine the value of your drop? Did you count by 1s, 10s?

#### **Assessment:**

1. Are the students using strategies such as tossing the coins gently or leaning to the paper or are they just throwing the pennies? Do they find better ways to toss the coins so that more land on the target?
2. Do the students understand how to transfer their data to their charts?
3. Can the students make the connections between the number of coins and the value?

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<b>Round</b>	<b>Number of pennies on Target</b>	<b>Number of dimes on Target</b>	<b>Total Value of Coins</b>	<b>Winner For This Round</b>
<b>1</b>				
<b>2</b>				
<b>3</b>				
<b>4</b>				
<b>5</b>				
<i>Game Winner</i>				

<b>Round</b>	<b>Number of pennies on Target</b>	<b>Number of dimes on Target</b>	<b>Total Value of Coins</b>	<b>Winner For This Round</b>
<b>1</b>				
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<b>4</b>				
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<i>Game Winner</i>				