Frontier College

Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

Collège Frontière

How can different coins be combined to make up a given amount?

Coins are great manipulatives, and as kids grow more comfortable handling money, coins can be used to practice mental math.

- Place some coins on a surface between you and your child. Say, "I have 7 coins: 3 quarters, 2 dimes, one nickel,, and one penny. Can you count how much money I have?"
- Now try some "coin magic:" say, "I have eighty-five cents in my hand. I'm holding 14 coins. Can you guess what they are?"
- Let your child be the "coin magician," and come up with a problem for you to solve.

What are ways we can find a fraction or a decimal number?

Play a simple game of "yes and no" to encourage the understanding of fractions or decimal numbers.

- think of a fraction or a decimal number. Say, "I'm thinking of a decimal number [or a fraction] that falls between 1 and 3. Can you guess what number I'm thinking of?"
- tell your child that you will only answer questions with a "no" or "yes." So, if the number chosen is 2.25, your questions and answers might be:

> Is your number an even number? No.
>
> Is your number between 2 and 3? Yes
>
> Is your number greater than 2.5? No

The narrower the range, the easier the game will be for beginning learners.

How does the ratio of sugar to water change the taste of the water?

We use ratios in many ways, from cooking to drawing & reading maps.

Ask your child to guess which mixture will have the strongest taste. Can he/she tell you what the guess is based upon? Use regular kitchen spoons (or measuring spoons) and four similar sized glass containers.

Mixture	Sugar	Water	Taste
A	2 tsp.	3 tbsp.	
B	5 tsp.	8 tbsp.	
C	3 tsp.	4 tbsp.	
D	1 tsp.	2 tbsp.	

Record your child's observations in a chart.