

Numeracy Gr 2 February 1

Activity 2: The Value of Canadian Currency

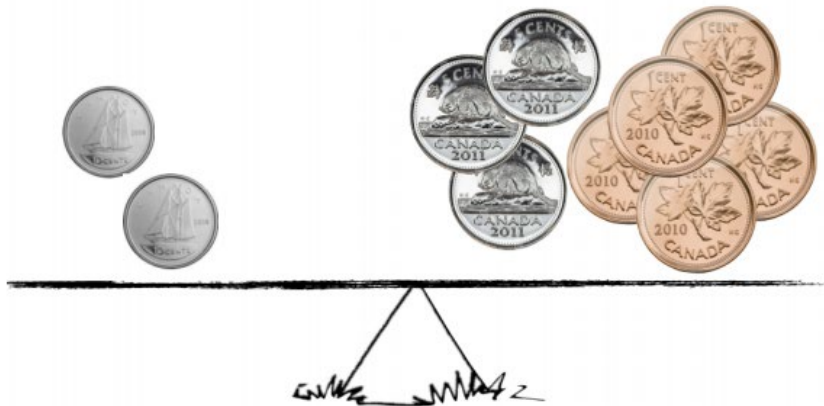
Materials Needed:

- A variety of Canadian coins (hopefully you can find at least 5 pennies somewhere!)—5 pennies, 5 nickels, 5 dimes, 3 quarters, 2 loonies, 1 toonie.

Task Instructions:

Introduce the Canadian coins — pennies (if desired and available), nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and twonies. Have your child sort, compare and describe the coins to begin. You may wish to read a non-fiction book about Canadian currency to add to the background knowledge, like *Canadian Coins* by Sabrina Crewe. It was published in 2014 so has current images and information about the discontinued penny.

Explain the relative values of the coins — that each one has a value compared to a single cent, or penny... which is no longer in circulation. Introduce the balance-beam image, using the blank on page 2. Put 20¢ on one side of the scale and have students create a balanced equation to match. Repeat with other options, getting more complex. Ask your student if there is more than one way to match or balance an amount (for example, 20 cents can be 2 dimes, 4 nickels, 20 pennies, one dime with one nickel and 5 pennies, etc). Repeat with numbers your child is comfortable with up to \$2.



Parent Tips:

One difficulty children might have is that coins are not sized to represent their value—talk about this with them. Why is a dime smaller than a nickel when it is worth more? During the course of this month, where the lessons will focus on financial literacy, encourage your child to collect and save coins. . You can find some images of money and some more activities [here](#).

*This lesson is adapted from Carole Fullerton’s free resource, *Financial Literacy*, available from her [website](#).

