Ways to explore the bank at home!

Our bank exhibit offers children the opportunity to work with money and money sense. They can pretend to be a banker or a drive through bank customer. Try these activities at home to inspire your young banker.

Counting cupcakes
A counting game using cupcake liners! Write an amount in the bottom of the cupcake, like 18 cents, 28 cents, etc. and allow your child to fill each liner with the designated amount of money.

Scoop and count
Using a bowl full of coins and a spoon, scoop out a pile of coins and count together how many coins you have. Play against each other by seeing who can scoop more!

Can I buy my lunch?
Using a recycled menu, or create your own, allow your children to explore buying their lunch. Use labels like: milk $1, sandwich $2, and so on.

Chore chart
A great way to get children responsible for their own money is to give them the opportunity to earn it. This is a great activity to do together to let the child have some choice in the chores on the chart. Ideas of chores are: dish washing, folding laundry, pick up pet poop, vacuuming, or sweeping.

Cha-Ching!
Let your child give a cashier the money when you go to the store. It will emphasize the real-life connection between money and buying things.

For your infant and young toddler
Your infant and young toddler are just beginning to be introduced to the concept of “trading” things for other things, and the tactile experience of handling money. Use these activities to explore further!

Coin sort
Allow your child to sort through coins and arrange them in their like groups. This activity requires adult supervision unless you are using large, non-chokeable, coin models.

Money Slime
Make your own slime using your favorite slime recipe and add coins into the slime. Or, using play-dough, push coins into the slime and find them again.

Sensory coin bin
Fill your sensory table with flour, cloud dough, oatmeal, or rice, and disperse coins throughout. Allow your child to dig, scoop, and sift through the sensory table to find the coins.

Sing 5 Little Ducks
The song 5 Little Ducks begins to introduce numbers and subtraction as each duck goes away. Use your hand or props to represent the ducks going away.

Count a lot!
Try to count together several times a day. Using props or your own fingers. Engaging in continual counting activities prepares children for the counting that will come later in life.
Bank Experiments & Projects

Donut Shop
(age 4-8)

What you'll need:
• Long sheet of butcher paper
• Construction paper
• Markers
• Paper plates
• Play or real money
• Scissors
• Paper pad & pencil

What to do:
1. Use a marker to draw boxed areas for donuts, icing, and sprinkles
2. Add a space for students to build the donuts and use the pad and pencil for adding up the cost
3. Cut out several donuts, icing, and sprinkles
4. Determine the cost of the donut, the icing, and the sprinkles
5. Begin building your donuts! Allow your child to add up the cost of your donut

What it all represents:
Your child has the chance to be put in the role of shop owner! You can build on this activity by adding different food or materials elements. Feel free to add in costumes, bills for the shop, and maybe even your own donut stand in your neighborhood. There are so many ways to explore money!

Make your own abacus
(age 3-10)

What you'll need:
• 6 wooden popsicle sticks
• 2-3 bamboo skewers cut into 6 3½” pieces (cut off the pointy end)
• 30 plastic beads (make sure they are large enough to slide easily over the skewers)
• Hot glue gun

What to do:
1. Lay down one popsicle stick and lay glue down its top face, the whole length
2. Lay the ends of the bamboo skewer sticks in the glue
3. Apply glue to a second popsicle stick, along its face
4. Place it glue side down on top of the bamboo skewers, sandwiching the bamboo skewers between the two popsicle sticks. Squeeze tightly, allow the glue to set.
5. Place 6 beads along each skewer
6. Place glue along the face of another popsicle stick, attach it to the opposite end of the first side, add glue to another stick, and, once more, sandwich the bamboo skewers together between the two sticks
7. You’ve got your abacus!

What it all represents:
An abacus is a tangible way for your child to add and subtract using the beads and sliders. You can help them to work out simple math problems using their abacus. You can create patterns, open-ended questions, and extended number sense in this activity.

Make a math tray
(age 0-5)

What you'll need:
• Child friendly manipulatives like: seashells, rocks, pinecones
• Magnetic numbers or paper numbers
• Playing cards
• Jumbo dice

What to do:
This is really an open-ended activity, here are some ideas:
1. Roll the dice, you can use 1 or 2 dice, lay out the manipulatives in the amount that matches the dice
2. Match the magnetic numbers to the numbers on the playing cards
3. Count the seashells, count the pinecones
4. Match the dice with the playing cards
5. Sort your manipulatives

What it all represents:
This is an entirely open-ended activity and can be expanded upon depending on the age of your child and can be done with many different materials. A math tray is a wonderful resource to have on hand if you’ve run out of ideas for play and are needing some help!

Reading Connections
Follow the Money! Loreen Leedy
Bunny Money Rosemary Well
Lots and Lots of Coins Margarette S. Reid