

DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

Bank Edition

SET UP

Play helps children explore new things about their world and develop the social and emotional skills they will need as they get older. Something as simple as playing bank will help your child build many early skills, including self-regulation, empathy, and cooperation.

- Set up a bank for your child to play and explore in.
- Use a large piece of cardboard to create a pretend ATM. You can cut a slot for credit cards to be inserted and another slot for money. Draw a pinpad on it with numbers and a screen with a greeting.
- Use a shallow rectangular box as a cash register. If you have small containers around the house you can use some of those to put coins in.
- Give them a note pad that they can use to "write checks" with.



READING

Once you have set up the pretend ATM, go over it with your child to show them what is on it. Read off the numbers that you put on the pinpad, read whatever you wrote on the pretend screen. Even if they can't read, ask them if they notice anything familiar on it. They may surprise you and point out the numbers before you do!



WRITING

Make pretend money with your child. Cut out dollar bill sized pieces of paper. Or, if they are old enough, have them help cut! Remember: a skill like holding and using scissors helps improve your child's writing skills. Use these pieces of paper to make pretend money. This is a great way for them to practice writing their numbers.



TALKING

Take a trip to the bank with you child and talk to them about what you're doing there. Do you need to deposit or withdraw cash? Pay a bill? Open an account? Talk to them about it. If possible, you could open your child their own bank account while you're there. This is a great way to introduce them to the concept of money.

SINGING

I Have a Shiny Penny

*I have a shiny penny
Just one little cent
Where did I put my little coin?
Into my bank it went*

*I have a shiny penny
That makes two coins for me
If I find another penny,
I'll count them, 1, 2, 3.*

*I now have two more pennies.
How many does that make?
I can trade five pennies with you
One nickel I can take!*



PLAYING

As they play, your child will have a chance to make hypothetical decisions about what they would spend their money on, who they will give it to, or if they will keep it. You can stand back and see how they play or show them the way by modeling play in this specific environment.

