

Pounds and Pence: Recognising and Naming UK Coins in Year 1 Maths

Key points

- The eight UK coins are 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2, each with its own size, colour and value that children learn to recognise.
- Year 1 is about identifying and naming coins, not yet adding them together—that comes in Year 2.
- Fewer children handle real cash every day now, so your child may need more time with actual coins to spot the differences between them.
- The 2p and 1p coins, and the 50p and 20p coins, are the trickiest pairs to tell apart—it's normal for children to mix these up.
- Handling real money helps children see how the size and colour clues work better than pictures alone.

Things to try at home

- Gather real coins and let your child sort them into piles or trays by type, without any rush or test—just exploring.
- Play a simple game of toy shop: give your child a coin and ask them to name it, or match it to a price tag.
- Lay out two tricky pairs (1p and 2p, or 50p and 20p) and ask your child to spot which is which by size and colour.
- Let them handle coins while you're paying for things, or count out change together at home in a relaxed way.

Find out more

- Ask your child's teacher about the coin-recognition activities they're using in class and whether there are games to try at home.
- The Department for Education publishes the National Curriculum Key Stage 1 Maths section at www.gov.uk/national-curriculum.