Same Amount, Different Coins: Making 20p in Year 2

Key points

- In Year 2, children learn that the same amount of money, such as 20p, can be made using different combinations of coins.
- This builds on the National Curriculum in England's Year 2 measurement (money) objectives, which include recognising and combining coins.
- Seeing that 20p can be made more than one way helps children understand addition flexibly, rather than as just one fixed sum.
- Children are encouraged to explain how they know two different combinations of coins add up to the same amount, which builds their reasoning skills.
- There is no single 'right' way to make 20p — trying out different combinations is the whole point of the activity.
- Talking about coins together at home helps link classroom maths to everyday situations, like paying for something in a shop.

Things to try at home

- Tip out a coin jar or purse together and see how many different ways you can find to make 20p.
- Next time you're paying for something small in a shop, ask your child which coins they might use.
- Lay out a small pile of coins and take turns challenging each other to find two different combinations worth the same amount.
- Use play money or a toy till to practise 'buying' pretend items and working out different ways to pay.
- Ask your child to show you two ways to make 20p and explain, in their own words, how they know both are correct.

Find out more

- GOV.UK – Department for Education: National Curriculum in England, mathematics programmes of study (Key Stage 1).
- Your child's teacher, who can tell you more about how money and maths are taught in their class.
- Your child's school website or newsletter, which may share more about how maths is taught there.