



Dear Family:

In the current math unit, children are learning to use coins in different combinations to show a total number of cents. They use real quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies to calculate totals and identify alternate coin combinations. Children are also learning how to convert cents into coins and to convert coins into cents.

There are several ways children can identify an amount of money shown by coins. One method is to use stick-and-circle drawings in which each stick represents 10¢ and each circle represents 1¢. Children use these drawings to represent the coins in story problems, circling each 5-group to make a nickel. For example:

Sonya has 4 dimes, 1 nickel, and 3 pennies. How much money does she have?

|||| ○○○○○ ○○○ **48¢**
4 dimes 1 nickel 3 pennies

Children can solve the same problem by converting the coins to cents, and then building and solving an equation.

$$10¢ + 10¢ + 10¢ + 10¢ + 5¢ + 3¢ = 48¢$$

Your child's work with coin conversions will help him or her proceed smoothly to later lessons in the unit, during which children will explore multi-digit addition strategies.

Sincerely,
Your child's teacher