

Parent Tips: Ready for School Center with SpongeBob SquarePants

Here are some engaging activities to help reinforce your child's learning in each of the activity centers that involve SpongeBob SquarePants. You can further extend your child's learning opportunities by printing out the activities for each of the different centers.

Math Center:

Build early mathematical skills with the following hands-on activities:

READY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

*REVIEW SPONGEBOB'S MATH GAME:

To help your child recognize and identify coins as well as practice addition, review the SpongeBob game.

1. Turn down the sound and put away the stylus and mouse so that you and your child can talk about the SpongeBob math game.
2. Show your child a one-cent coin. Count how many one-cent coins are 'falling' on the screen in level one.
3. Show your child a five-cent coin. Count how many five-cent coins are 'falling' on the screen in level one.
4. Show your child a ten-cent coin and a twenty-five cent coin. Count how many ten-cent coins are 'falling' on the screen in level three. Count how many twenty-five cent coins are 'falling' on the screen.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

*PRACTICE MONEY SORTING:

To introduce your child to the concept of money and coin identification, practice money counting.

1. Have your child use a magnifying glass to look at the different coin denominations: A one-cent coin, a five-cent coin, a ten-cent coin, and a twenty-five cent coin. As your child looks at each coin, talk about the color, the size, the number on the coin, and the pictures and writing on each coin side.

2. Put a bunch of coins (1, 5, 10 and 25 cent coins) on a table and ask your child to sort them into groups of one-cent coins, five-cent coins, ten-cent coins and twenty-five cent coins.
3. Ask your child to pick out certain coins. Some suggestions might include:
 - *Show me a coin with the number five on it.
 - *Show me a coin that is copper-colored.
 - *Show me the largest sized coin.

*EXPLORE BOOKS ABOUT MONEY:

To introduce your child to the concept of money, read books about money together. Go to the library, bookstore, or check on-line resources for books that focus on money. As you read a story about money, try the following:

1. Have your child find and identify any coins included in the book.
2. Talk about what the money (coins) is being used for in the story (e.g., to buy something, to go someplace, to help a character).
3. Connect the story to your child's own life by talking about any experiences he or she has had with money (e.g., saving money in a piggy bank, buying something with money).

CREATIVE PROJECTS

*TRY COIN RUBBINGS:

To familiarize your child with the various coin denominations, make coin rubbings.

1. Put coins of various denominations (1, 5, 10 and 25 cents) on a table.
2. Have your child pick one coin and place a piece of blank paper on top of the coin.
3. Use the side of a crayon to rub over the top of the coin until the coin image appears on the paper. Turn the coin over and do a coin rubbing of the other side of the coin.
4. Repeat a coin rubbing for each of the coin denominations. Be sure to rub both sides of each coin.
5. Talk about the different elements of each coin: The rim, the number, the picture and the writing on both sides of the coin.