Graph Money

Give your smart second grader a rich challenge with this activity that combines graphing practice with money. All you need to do is empty out your pockets of spare change and get graphing!

What You Need:

- Coins
- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons

What You Do:

1. Start off with a brief scavenger hunt. You and your child need to find as many coins as possible. Search your wallet, your back pocket and beneath couch cushions for at least a handful of change.
2. Help your child draw the two axes for a graph. Explain that he is going to make a graph that will show him how many of each type of coin he has.
3. For the first graph, have him sort the coins by value. Help him label the axes. The bottom should be labeled with by coin type: penny, nickel, dime and quarter. The side axis should be numbered high enough to include the totals on each type of coin.
4. Help your son graph each of these totals. For example, f he has two dimes, than the dime bar needs to go all the way up to twenty. Coloring each bar can make it easier to read.
5. What else can he show in a graph? Help him draw a graph by coin color – copper vs silver. Brainstorm with your child and create a third graph that shows the differences of the coins in a new way.
6. Now have your son compare and contrast the graphs he has made. What do the graphs tell him? Which is the most useful?
7. Have him share the information with someone else in the family so that he can practice discussing what he has learned.

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