

Activity Name: Buy A Word

Subject/Subject Area/Category: Pre-fractions, Decimals and Money, Integration of Spelling concepts

Grade Level: Primary Grade 2-3

Activity Time: minimum of 45 minutes for the first lesson

Learning Objectives:

- Students learn how to complete a multi-step task and problem solve.
- Students become familiar with using decimals, the FIX key, and place value keys.
- Students learn the relationship that fractions and decimals represent a part of a whole using money.
- Students learn to organize a table and record.
- Students put a monetary value on specific letters or groups of letters and find the sum of those letters for specific words.

Support Materials: TI -10, paper, writing tools, coins, class store

Before the Activity directions:

Read the poem:

Mud Pies a Penny

by Alan Benjamin

Mud pies a penny
Paper lace a dime,
Three cents for lemonade,
A nickel buys a rhyme

First talk about buying and selling their own things from home. Consider how they decide what the value should be. I tell the children that I will be buying words from them and they will earn money for the words they sell me. They then will be able to buy items from the class store. Model and guide the children using the following steps as many times as needed.

Press On.

Press FIX key.

Press the 0.01 key and add.

Example: $.25+.25+.10=$

Press enter.

During the Activity directions: Decide what the value for consonants and vowels should be. After the values have been established, model how to set up at least one possible table to organize the words and values of letters. (Example: Consonants are \$.10 and vowels are \$.25.) Variation: As the children become more proficient using vowel combinations, digraphs, prefixes etc... as ways to group letters.

An example of a value for the letters and letter combinations is: consonants-- \$.10

vowels -- \$.25

consonant blends--\$.30

ph -- \$.35

The word photograph is worth \$1.85

Variation: If it is a compound word add a few more cents. The children begin to look for words that may have the greatest values because of the phonemic features of the word. This also promotes estimation and mental math strategies.

This activity became a part of our word work conversations because we focused on specific phonetic concepts and the relationships they hold in words. Allow children to explore and set up their own tables and charts.

Model how to use the FIX key and the place value keys (0.01) to show the values of the letters. Add up the values for the price of the word.

After the Activity directions: Students record the possible money combinations for the word the teacher is going to buy. Make copies of the variety of charts children designed to find the values for each word. This can be an ongoing activity for the children as they learn and work with words. It is also a great segue on a discussion about fractions and parts of a whole (dollar). The TI-15 Explorer allows you to convert decimals into fractions and visa-versa.

Variation: The children use the place value chart and using only dimes and nickels to show the amount of their word. This can be recorded and then converted using dollars, half-dollars, quarters, and pennies.