

Change It or Lose It

Help your children flex their mental money muscles with the "Change It or Lose It" game. All it takes is a pile of coins and a little competitive spirit.

Adults and kids alike will enjoy the brainteaser nature of Change It or Lose it, when they have to "guess" how much money the other person has in their hand based on two pieces of information.

Items needed:

- A small pile of coins.

How to play:

- Reach into a pile or jar of money and pull out a handful of coins.
- Without the child seeing, count the number of coins you have in your hand and add up the value of the coins (You may want to write this information down).
- Tell the child how many coins you have and what the total value is. (For example, say, "4 coins, worth \$.26.")
- Let the child try to figure out exactly which coins you are holding. (For example, "two dimes, one nickel, and one penny.")
- If the total is correct, but the types of coins are incorrect, allow the child to guess again. (For example, if you say, "6 coins, \$.30," the child would be right by saying "six nickels," even though what you are holding is one quarter and five pennies.)

Variations:

- Have two children play against one another. If they guess right, they add the coins to their pile. After a set number of rounds, whichever child has the most money is declared the winner.
- Play a mini version of this game whenever you have some change in your pocket. Simply say "I have 7 coins, totaling \$.82." If the child gets the answer correct, let him or her keep the change.