

## Story Time Take Home Packet



Today your child heard two stories, *The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense* and *Ella Earns Her Own Money*, which focused on the importance of saving. In the first book, Brother Bear and Sister Bear begin to earn an allowance, and quickly discover their money is gone right away. With Father Bear and Mother Bear's help, the kids learn about money management through saving and writing checks. Sister and Brother Bear learn the lesson that sometimes it's better to save rather than buy something right away that you don't really want.

In the second story, Ella is a young girl who is interested in buying a new soccer ball. She talks with her mom and starts to receive an allowance. Her mom also suggests that Ella begin earning money. She works hard completing jobs for others in the community and saves enough money to buy a new soccer ball.

We hope your child enjoyed the stories. To continue their learning, we've provided this activity packet. The colorful money mat shows how there are different ways to pay for something. Cut out the coins and dollar bills to total the \$3.00 worth of money requested for each square (the exact amount that Brother Bear needed to buy his baseball book). This is a great opportunity to talk about how different combinations of money can still total the needed price of Brother's baseball book. Use coins and dollars to come up with additional combinations to reach \$3.00.



Work together and have fun completing the activities! Visit [MoneyMindedIllinois.com](http://MoneyMindedIllinois.com) for information about our standards-based curriculum for grades 1-8.

You can also enhance your own personal finance knowledge by creating a free account on the Illinois Financial Wellness Hub (FinWell Hub) at [IllinoisTreasurer.Enrich.org](http://IllinoisTreasurer.Enrich.org). The FinWell Hub offers practical tools and courses, as well as free access to a Certified Personal Finance Coach. The FinWell Hub is for adults and high school age students.

Happy learning!

Illinois State Treasurer's Office



Michael W. Frerichs  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

## Counting Mat for Coins & Dollars

How can you combine coins and dollars to total \$3.00?

**Put 60 nickels  
(\$3.00) in this  
yellow square**

**Put 30 dimes  
(\$3.00) in this  
blue square**

**Put 12 quarters  
(\$3.00) in this  
green square**

**Put 3 dollar bills  
(\$3.00) in this  
red square**

# Money Cutouts for Brother's Baseball Book

Nickels are 5 cents each





Quarters are 25 cents each



Dimes are 10 cents each



One-dollar bills are \$1 each (100 cents)



## **Discussion Questions**

### **Adult questions for child**

Do you remember wanting something, but not having it? What would you like to buy?

What could you do to help earn money to buy the item?

### **Child questions for adult**

Did you buy things when you were my age?

Did you have an allowance as a child?