

Role Play Café

Introduce money in a fun, interactive way at home by getting your children to set up and run their own café. Setting up and running a café, allows children to use terminology associated with money, handle different coins and think about how much things cost as well giving them the opportunity to test their maths skills by producing bills and working out change.

Ideas for how to set this up for children of all ages can be found in the accompanying resources. There is plenty of scope to develop these ideas further (we've included some at the end) but please don't feel you have to do them. The café can be entirely role-play, using either imaginary food or play food and coins. Or, they can get their hands messy and cook/prepare some of the menu items to serve you or siblings!

Don't forget to bring your money to pay for the items... there's no such thing as a free lunch!

01

Come up with a name for your café – if you are feeling creative, you could design a poster, shop front or a banner to advertise it.



02

MENU

Create a menu for your café, including food and drink items – use our template if you like.

You could write out the menu items, draw pictures of food and drink items or select some of our images to cut out and stick on your menu.

03

RECEIPT

How much are you going to charge for each item?

Talk to someone about what items might cost, and which ones might cost more or less than others. Will they cost pounds or pence? Which will be the cheapest/most expensive?

If you've made any items to sell, how much did they cost to make? Do you want to make a profit by charging more than they cost you?

Decide on the price of each menu item and write them down, or stick on a price from our price list.

Notes to grown-ups:

It's the concepts we want young people to be confident with, so don't worry if pricing isn't accurate! Older children should look to make more careful pricing decisions, and could research suitable prices online beforehand.

If your child has no prior knowledge of money/coins etc at all before this, it is worth spending some time exploring different coin values and the cost of things (in simple terms) before beginning this activity.



Now it's time to set up the café with the menu, food and drink items (play or real), cutlery, plates etc, and anything else that will make the café look spectacular!

Don't forget money for the till. This could be real coins, toy coins or paper/printed coins. If you have a toy till to store the money that's amazing, but, if not, what about a container, pot or even a dish?



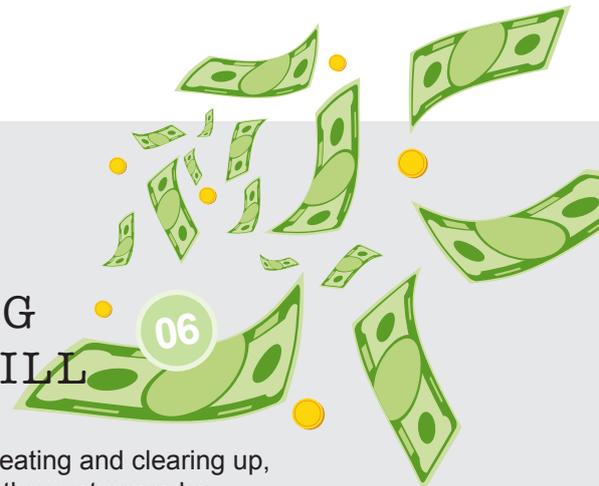
The café is open and it's time for customers to arrive.

Everyone in the household is invited.. adults, children, pets and of course teddies and toys!

Discuss the menu and prices with the customers before taking orders and going off to the kitchen to prepare the food and drink. You can remember their orders, or write them down on a notepad (or use our template).



PAYING THE BILL



After serving, eating and clearing up, it's time to tell the customers how much money they need to pay.

Add up the cost of all the items purchased by the customer – ask an adult or sibling to help you with this part if needed.

Then, present them with a bill.

Customers... it's payment in cash only.

Don't forget to give customers their change if any is owed.

Talk to children about money. How much do things cost? (e.g. activities, food, apps etc) Are they surprised? Are they worth it? What do you think is the most expensive thing in our house?

When playing Café use real coins if possible to get children to see money as real. In an age where we use cards and contactless means to pay, it's easy to forget we are still spending real money!

Consider a reward chart with pocket money to help them understand the value of money.

Get older children involved in conversations about the weekly food budget. If you meal plan, get them to help work out the costs.

Hints, tips and other ideas

Café Menu

Food

Price

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1p	2p	5p	10p
20p	50p	£1	£2
£5	£10	£20	£50
£1.50p	£3	£4	£8
£5.50p	£2.50p	80p	65p
£1.10p	£1.75	£2.20p	£5.95p

Differentiation:

Green = starter level / with support

Orange = intermediate – requires 2 coins or notes together

Blue = more advanced – requires several coins/notes together