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Introduction

*Kiddynomics: An Economics Curriculum for Young Learners* is a set of lessons designed to introduce young children to the economic way of thinking. Informed decisionmaking is a critical-thinking skill that students can use throughout their school, personal, and work lives. And, as citizens in a democratic society, they should understand basic principles of how the economy operates. Beginning economic education early and building on that learning throughout students’ education is the best way to ensure they develop vital decisionmaking skills.

In this curriculum, students are introduced to basic personal finance and economic concepts, such as scarcity, choice, goods, services, saving, spending, and banks. They explore these concepts through popular children’s literature to reinforce reading fluency. In addition to reading integration, all lessons incorporate activities to enhance school-readiness skills, such as categorizing objects, counting, and letter recognition. Practicing these skills in a variety of contexts helps students prepare for their transition to kindergarten and beyond.

All lessons feature active-learning strategies that encourage students to ask and answer questions, participate in group discussions, and build vocabulary. Each lesson can be taught in about 45 minutes but can be easily divided into smaller segments. Songs, dramatic play, and art—all things young learners enjoy—are incorporated throughout to maintain student engagement. Finally, several extension activities are suggested at the end of each lesson to further student learning.

The curriculum is divided into five lessons.

**Lesson 1: Betty Bunny Wants Everything**

Students learn about wants, choice, and scarcity. They listen to the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* and identify all the wants that Betty Bunny has at the toy store. Students learn that because of scarcity, they must make choices. They practice making choices by selecting a treat they want, a toy for one of the book characters, and finally a school item. They sing a song about choices and scarcity.

**Lesson 2: Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!**

Students learn what goods and services are. They listen to the story *Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* They listen to the story again and identify letters and goods and services from the book that begin with those letters. They learn a song about goods and services, identify goods and services they use, and identify the first letter of their first or last names and draw a good or a service that starts with that letter. The extension activities provide opportunities for role-play and counting.
Lesson 3: An Orange in January

Students learn about the economic concepts of consumer and producer. They give examples of consumers and producers from the book *An Orange in January*. They become producers by helping make orange juice popsicles and consumers when they eat the popsicles. They are asked to correctly order three pictures based on the story.

Lesson 4: Just Saving My Money

Students learn about banks and money. They recognize coins as money and manipulate them with classifying, sorting, and pattern-making activities. They draw a picture in a piggy bank of a good they would like to buy, cut out the bank, and hang it in the room. They hear the story *Just Saving My Money* and listen for the words “money” and “bank.” Finally, each student draws a self-portrait of going to a bank.

Lesson 5: You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime

Students learn about saving and spending. They listen to the story *You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime* and identify examples of saving and spending in the story by holding up a plus or minus sign. Next, they follow along with another story about saving and spending by counting with pennies and copying actions mentioned in the story. They conclude by coloring pictures and identifying whether the pictures are examples of saving or spending.
Acknowledgments

Lesson Authors
Bonnie Meszaros, Ph.D., University of Delaware
Mary S. Suiter, Ph.D., Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Erin A. Yetter, Ph.D., Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis–Louisville Branch

Story Author
Shiny Pennies, Charlotte Hughes

Editors
Judith A. Ahlers, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Lydia H. Johnson, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Illustrator
Katherine Ren

Designer
Donna M. Stiller, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Teacher Reviewers
Cindy Kincheloe, Lead Teacher, St. Joseph’s Child Development Center, Louisville, KY
Clarissa Ross, Early Childhood Coordinator, St. Louis Public Schools

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Lesson 1:
Betty Bunny Wants Everything
By Michael B. Kaplan / ISBN: 978-0-8037-3408-1

Lesson Author
Bonnie Meszaros, Ph.D., University of Delaware

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students learn about wants, choice, and scarcity. They listen to the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* and identify all the wants that Betty Bunny has at the toy store. Students learn that because of scarcity, they must make choices. They practice making choices by selecting a treat they want, a toy for one of the book characters, and finally a school item. They sing a song about choices and scarcity.

Grade Level
PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)
Choice
Wants
Scarcity

School Readiness Skills
- Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
- Count in sequence from 1 to 10
- Match two like pictures in a set of five pictures
- Attempt to write letters in own name
- Understand concept of more and less with up to five objects
Time Required
Approximately 60 minutes

Materials
- Two small treats such as pretzels and popcorn, enough for each student to have just one of either but not both
- 5” × 8” index cards, one for each student
- Pencils, one for each student
- Tape
- Visuals 1.1 and 1.2 for the teacher
- Handouts 1.1 and 1.2, one copy for each student

Procedure
1. Ask the students if they would like a treat. (Most will.)

2. Show the students two treats such as pretzels and popcorn, but be sure that there isn’t enough for each student to have both treats—only one of either. Ask the following:
   - Raise your hand if you want pretzels.
   - Raise your hand if you want popcorn.
   - Raise your hand if you would like both.

3. Tell the students that a **want** is something they would like to have.

4. Explain to the students that there isn’t enough of each treat for everyone to have both treats. Invite the students to come to the front of the room one at a time and select only one treat.

5. Explain to the students that they had to make a **choice**. When they make a choice, they must pick among different options. They had two options, pretzels and popcorn.
   - Ask some students to tell what they chose.

6. Discuss the following:
   - Why couldn’t you have both pretzels and popcorn? (*There was not enough of each for every student.*)
7. Tell the students that not having enough is called **scarcity**. Scarcity means that there isn’t enough for everyone to have everything they want. Discuss the following:
   - What are some things in our classroom that are scarce? (Answers will vary but may include blocks, scissors, or crayons.)

8. Show the students the cover of the book, *Betty Bunny Wants Everything*. Discuss the following:
   - Where is the title of the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the title and read it aloud.
   - Where is the name of the author, the person who writes the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the author’s name and read it aloud.
   - Where is the name of the illustrator, the person who draws the pictures for the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the illustrator’s name and read it aloud.
   - What do you think the book is about? (Answers will vary but may include toys or shopping.)

9. Read the book and ask the students to listen for all of the things Betty Bunny wants.

10. Discuss the following:
    - What toys did Betty Bunny want? Write the students’ answers on the board or a large sheet of paper. (A little stuffed bunny, a Fairy Princess doll, a Shake and Rattle Music Set, a Techno Monster Figures Pack, an Ultra Blast Rocket, a Captain Gizmo Detective Kit, a Spin Art Paint Set, a Slide ‘N’ Splash Inflatable Pool, a giant stuffed panda, five rubber balls, a yellow dump truck, and a one-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle)
    - What problem did Betty Bunny have? (Her parents said she couldn’t have all of these toys.)
    - Why do you think her parents said she couldn’t have all of the toys she put in her cart? (Answers will vary but may include the following: The toys cost too much. They didn’t have enough money to buy everything. She didn’t need all of the toys.)
    - What did her parents tell her? (You can’t have everything you want.)
    - What do we call the problem when you can’t have everything you want? (Scarcity)

11. Remind the students that Betty Bunny’s parents gave her some money. Discuss the following:
    - Could Betty Bunny buy all of the toys she wanted with the money her parents gave her? (No.)
    - What did she have to do? (She had to make a choice.)

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What did she choose? (She chose to save some money and spend some on a little stuffed bunny that looked like her.)

12. Tell the students that once Betty Bunny bought the stuffed bunny, she had a new problem. Discuss the following:

- What was her new problem? (She wanted to buy lots of toys for the stuffed bunny.)
- Will she be able to buy all of the things she wants for Little Betty? (No.) Why not? (She doesn’t have enough money.)

13. Tape copies of Visual 1.1: Toys in a row along on the board. Give each student a 5” x 8” index card. Instruct the students to write their first name on the card. Point out the pictures of toys on the board. Tell the students that these are some of the toys Betty Bunny wanted to buy for Little Betty. They are each going to vote for one toy they think Betty Bunny should buy. Have each student come to the board and vote for the toy they think Betty Bunny should buy by taping his or her name under that toy.

14. Have the students count with you the number of votes for each toy. Discuss the following:

- Which toy got the most votes?
- Which toy got the fewest votes?

15. Select individual toys and ask students which toys got more votes or less votes than that toy.

16. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song, “Choices, Choices.” It is sung to the tune of “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.” Show Visual 1.2: Song. Sing each line in turn and have the students repeat it.

Closure

17. Distribute a copy of Handout 1.1: Wants to each student. Read each want statement (A, B, C, and D) and ask students to circle the two items that satisfy that want.

- A. Betty Bunny wants some fruit. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (The apple and the grapes)
- B. Betty Bunny wants something to keep her warm. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (The jacket and the sweater)
- C. Betty Bunny wants a toy she can play with outside. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (The soccer ball and the basketball)
18. Provide each student with a copy of *Handout 1.2: Make a Choice*. Tell the students the handout shows two things they could buy for school, a box of crayons and a fancy pencil. Because they don’t have enough money to buy both items, they must make a choice. Instruct the students to circle the item they want and put an “X” through the item they didn’t choose.

**Extension Activity Suggestions**

**Creative Play**

- Place a child-sized shopping cart (or a box) on the floor. Instruct the students to get a toy from the play area. Tell them they can only play with the toys that fit in the cart. Make sure the cart is small enough that all of the toys will not fit. Ask the students to identify the problem.

**Literacy**

- Read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (ISBN: 978-0-06-024586-0), *If you Give a Moose a Muffin* (ISBN: 978-0-06-024405-7), or *If You Give Pig a Pancake* (ISBN: 978-0-06-026686-8) by Laura Numeroff and list all the wants that the mouse, moose, or pig had, or read *The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies* by Stan and Jan Berenstain (ISBN: 978-0-394-80566-5) and list all the wants Brother and Sister Bear had.

**Math**

- Ask the children to count the number of people in their individual families and compare as follows: Who has the most people in his or her family? Who has the fewest people in his or her family? Who has the same number of people in their families?

**Social**

- Identify the members of Betty Bunny’s family in the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* and then have students identify members of their families.

- Ask the students to role-play and act out the part of the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* where Betty’s mother tells her that she can’t have everything she wants. Discuss what behavior would be more appropriate. Have students role-play that part of the story again and use appropriate behavior.
Betty Bunny Wants Everything Visual 1.1: Toys (page 5 of 5)
Choices, Choices
(Tune: “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean”)

Betty Bunny wants so many things.
Her mom says that Betty must choose.
No, Betty can’t have all she wants,
There are things that Betty must lose.

Chorus
Choices, choices,
Oh, we can’t have all that we want, we want.
Choices, choices,
Oh, scarcity means we must choose.

We all want to have lots of things.
Like Betty we all have to choose.
And when we choose things that we want,
There will be some things that we lose.

Chorus
Choices, choices,
Oh, we can’t have all that we want, we want.
Choices, choices,
Oh, scarcity means we must choose.
A. Betty Bunny wants some fruit. Circle the two items that satisfy her want.

B. Betty Bunny wants something to keep her warm. Circle the two items that satisfy her want.

C. Betty Bunny wants a toy she can play with outside. Circle the two items that satisfy her want.
Directions: Circle the item you want, and put an “X” through the item you didn’t choose.
Lesson 2:
Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!

Lesson Author
Mary C. Suiter, Ph.D., Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students learn what goods and services are. They listen to the story Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book! They listen to the story again and identify letters and goods and services from the book that begin with those letters. They learn a song about goods and services, identify goods and services they use, and identify the first letter of their first or last names and draw a good or a service that starts with that letter. The extension activities provide opportunities for role-play and counting.

Grade Level
PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)
Goods
Services

School Readiness Skills
- Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
- Understand and follow directions with at least two steps
- Participate in repeating a song
- Recognize letters in own name
- Attempt to write letters in own name
- Recognize 10 alphabet letter names
- Use writing and drawing tools
Time Required

Approximately 45 minutes

Materials

- One copy of *Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* by Dr. Seuss (ISBN 0-679-88281-2)
- Visuals 2.1 and 2.2
- Handout 2.1, one copy for each student
- Crayon, piece of paper, book, and comb
- Crayons and/or markers for each student

Procedure

1. Show the students the front of the book, *Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!* Ask the following:
   - Where is the title of the book? *(On the front)* Point to the title and read it aloud.
   - What do you think the book is about? *(Answers will vary, but they may say letters or the alphabet.)*
   - Who is pictured on the cover? *(Answers will vary, but they may say funny looking animals and the Cat in the Hat.)*

2. Explain that just like other books they may know about, such as the *The Cat in the Hat* or *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, the book was written by Dr. Seuss. Dr. Seuss is also the illustrator. The illustrator is the person who draws the pictures for the book.

3. Display Visual 2.1: Goods Vocabulary Card. Tell the students that the pictures are called **goods**. Goods are things that people use to satisfy their wants. You can touch, see, eat, drink, or play with goods. Ask the students the following:
   - If you were hungry, which good would you want? *(The cupcake)*
   - If you want to sit down, which good would you want? *(The chair)*
   - If you were cold, which good would you want? *(The coat)*
   - What are some other examples of goods you use? *(Answers will vary but may include crayons, markers, paint brushes, lunch boxes, toys, or candy.)*

4. Display Visual 2.2: Services Vocabulary Card. Ask the students the following:
   - What are the people in the pictures doing? *(Giving/getting a haircut, delivering food, and teaching)*
5. Tell the students that services are things that people do for us. Ask the students the following questions:

- What service is the beautician doing for the child? (Cutting the child’s hair)
- What service is the waitress doing? (Bringing food)
- What service is the teacher doing? (Helping children learn)
- What are some other examples of services—things people do for you? (Answers will vary but may include teaching, reading, cooking, driving, or fixing a broken bike or toy).

6. Read the book, Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!

7. Tell the students that in the book there are goods and services. You are going to read through the book and ask them about the goods and services.

8. Read the story again. Point to each letter as you go, ask what the letter is, and then ask the noted question.

A: What service is the alligator providing? (A ride)
B: If you want to get your haircut, who on this page can provide that service? (The barber)
C: What service could the camel provide? (Rides on the ceiling)
D: What good did Donald dream of? (A donut)
E: What good on the page could you and the elephant eat? (The egg)
F: What fluffy good could you put on your hat? (Feathers)
G: What good does the dog have on his face? (Goggles)
H: What good does a hungry horse eat? (Hay)
I: Ichabod can’t reach his itchy back. What service could you provide for him? (Scratch his back)
J: What good is in Jerry Jordan’s jar? (Jelly)
K: What good could you and the kangaroos use to play outside on a windy day? (The kite)
L: What good is the lion licking? (A lollipop)
M: If the mice make music for us, would they be providing us with a good or a service? (A service)
N: What goods are the bears wearing? (Neckties and nightgown)
O: What service does the ostrich provide for the owl? (He oils the owl.)
P: What service is making the pajamas pink? (Painting)
Q: The queen is wearing a crown. Is a crown a good or a service? (A good)
R: What service is the red rhino providing? (A ride)
S: If you are thirsty, what good could satisfy your want? Careful, don’t have too many like Sammy! (Soda pop)
T: If you were tired, just like the 10 turtles, what good could you use to take a nap? (A bed, cot, sleeping bag, or pillow)
U: If it’s raining outside and you don’t want to get wet, what good could you share with Uncle Ubb? (An umbrella)
V: What good could you and Vera Violet Vinn use to make music? (The violin)
W: What service is Willy providing for Waldo Woo? (Washing)
X: What good is being used to make music? (An xylophone)
Y: If the yak is tired and asks Young Yolanda Yorgenson to yell and wake him up, would she be providing a good or a service? (A service)
Z: The Zizzer-Zazzer-Zuzz’s hair looks too long. If you cut her hair for her, would you be providing a good a service? (A service)

9. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song, “Goods and Services.” Ask them if they know the song “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” (Hopefully, many will say yes, but if not, sing the song for them.) Explain that the new song is called “We Use Goods and Services” and is sung to the same tune as “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” Sing each verse in turn and have the students repeat it.

 Goods and Services
♫ We use goods and services, services, services.
♫ We use goods and services each and every day.
♫ Goods are things that we can touch, we can touch, we can touch.
♫ Goods are things that we can touch when we work and play.
♫ People provide services, services, services.
♫ People provide services to help us through our day.

10. Next, sing the entire song as a class. At the end of the song, ask the following:
• What are some goods and services that you use throughout the day? (Answers will vary but may include the following: Services—school (teaching), rides to and from school, dance lessons, mail delivery, computer service, service at a restaurant, a dental checkup, a medical checkup, soccer/baseball coaching, and so on. Goods—food, clothing, crayons, glue, shoes, books, toys, tables, chairs, forks, spoons, and so on.)
11. Select four students. Give one student a crayon and one student a book. Complete the following:

- Tie a child’s shoe and ask the rest of the class whether tying a shoe is a good or a service. (A service) Why? (Because it is something you do for someone else)
- Ask the student holding the crayon if the crayon is a good or a service. (A good) Why? (Because you can touch it and use it)
- Comb a child’s hair and ask the rest of the class whether combing hair is a good or a service. (A service) Why? (Because it is something you do for someone else)
- Ask the child holding the book whether the book is a good or a service. (A good) Why? (Because you can touch it and use it)
- Ask the students whether you reading the Dr. Seuss’s ABC book to the class was a good or a service. (A service) Why? (Because it was something you did for the class)

Closure

12. Distribute a copy of Handout 2.1: Alphabet Goods to each student. Review the instructions. Allow time for students to work.

13. When students have completed their work, staple their completed work on a bulletin board or tape the pictures to the wall. Ask the students if posting their work on the bulletin board or wall is an example of you providing a good or a service. (A service)

14. Have students role-play providing services for one another using the following (or other) scenarios:

- Have one student pretend to be a doctor and another a patient who gets a checkup. Ask the rest of the class whether the doctor provides a good or a service. (A service)
- Have one student with a (stuffed) dog ask another student to take the dog for a walk. Ask the rest of the class whether the dog walker provides a good or a service. (A service)
- Have one student pretend to be a firefighter who rescues a (stuffed) cat from a tree. Ask the rest of the class whether the firefighter provides a good or a service. (A service)
- Have one child act as a bus driver. Have several other children be riders on the bus. Ask the rest of the class whether the bus driver is providing a good or a service. (A service)
Extension Activity Suggestions

**Literacy**
- Read the story *Little Nino’s Pizzeria* by Karen Barbour (ISBN 978-0-15-246321-6) and discuss which goods and services are illustrated in the book.
- Have students work together to create an alphabet book of goods and services. Assign each student a letter and have him or her write the letter and draw a picture of a good or service that starts with that letter. Assemble the book and have students practice “reading” the book to one another—pointing out each letter and the good or service pictured.

**Math**
- Have the students identify and count goods they use in the classroom. (*Tables, chairs, pencils, markers, crayons, paper, books, paint, puzzles, play dough, milk, snacks, and so on*) Have them create a pictogram of the goods.

**Social**
- Identify people in the school who provide a service. (*Teachers, the nurse, the school secretary/administrative assistant, bus or van drivers, and so on*)
Goods

Goods are things that people use to satisfy their wants. You can touch, see, eat, drink, or play with goods.
Services

Services are things that people do for us that satisfy our wants.
My name starts with the letter

This is a picture of a good that starts with the same letter as my name.
Lesson 3:
An Orange in January

Lesson Author
Erin A. Yetter, Ph.D., Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis–Louisville Branch

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students learn about the economic concepts of consumer and producer. They give examples of consumers and producers from the book *An Orange in January*. They become producers by helping make orange juice popsicles and consumers when they eat the popsicles. They are asked to correctly order three pictures based on the story.

Grade Level
PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)
Consumer
Producer

School Readiness Skills
- Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
- Understand and follow directions with at least two steps
- Correctly put in order (sequence) up to three story pictures
- Participate in repeating a song

Time Required
Approximately 45 minutes (not including time for freezing the popsicles)
Materials

- Visuals 3.1 and 3.2
- Handout 3.1, one copy for each student
- Materials for popsicles:
  - Orange juice
  - Toothpicks
  - Plastic wrap
  - Ice cube tray(s)
  - Freezer

Procedure

1. Show the students the cover of the book, *An Orange in January*. Ask the following:
   - Where is the title of the book? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the title and read it aloud.
   - Where is the name of the author, the person who writes the story? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the author’s name and read it aloud.
   - Where is the name of the illustrator, the person who draws the pictures for the book? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the illustrator’s name and read it aloud.
   - What do you think the book is about? (*Answers will vary but may include oranges, winter, being cold, or a little boy.*)

2. Display Visual 3.1: Producer Vocabulary Card. Ask the following:
   - What are the jobs of the three people in the pictures? (*Florist, painter, and chef*)

3. Tell the students that the people in the pictures are called producers. Producers are people who make or grow goods and provide services. Sometimes they are called workers, and they help us do things. For example, a plumber is a producer. A plumber helps fix our pipes if there is a leak. A farmer is also a producer. A farmer grows food for us to eat. Ask the following:
   - Name some examples of producers. (*Answers will vary but may include doctors, teachers, police officers, or firemen.*)

4. Tell the students that anytime you make something, such as drawing a picture or making other artwork, you are a producer. You are also a producer whenever you provide a service, such as cleaning your room or helping watch your little brother or sister.
5. Display Visual 3.2: Consumer Vocabulary Card. Ask the following:
   - What are the people in the pictures doing? (The little girl is eating a smoothie, the man is shopping, and the child is playing in a sandbox.)

6. Tell the students that the people in the pictures are called consumers. Consumers are people who buy or use goods and services to satisfy their wants. Satisfying their wants makes them happy. For example, when you eat your dinner tonight, you will be a consumer. You will be hungry, and eating the meal will make you feel full. You will be a consumer of food. You are also a consumer every day when you go to school. You are learning. You are a consumer of knowledge. Ask the following:
   - Name some examples of consumers. (Answers will vary but may include people buying toys, children riding skateboards, a child playing on the playground, or an adult watching a movie.)


8. Tell the students that in the book there were producers, the people who grew the oranges, and consumers, the people who ate an orange. Tell them you are going to read the story again. Ask them to pay close attention to who the producers of the oranges are and who the consumers of the orange are.

9. Read the story again and discuss the following:
   - Who were the producers in the story? (The producers were the people who worked on the farm.)
   - Who were the consumers in the story? (The consumers were the little boy and his friends. [It is OK if they only say the little boy.] )
   - What did the farm workers produce? (Oranges)
   - What did the little boy and his friends consume? (An orange)

10. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song. It is sung to the tune of “All Around the Mulberry Bush.” Sing each line in turn and have the students repeat it.
    
    ♫ The farmer who grows an orange, he is a producer.
    ♫ The little boy who eats it up, he is a consumer.

11. Tell the students they are going to be producers and make popsicles out of orange juice. Have the students help you make the popsicles by pouring the orange juice, counting toothpicks, and so on to make the popsicles:
    - Pour the orange juice into an ice cube tray.
    - Cover the tray tightly with plastic wrap.
Stick the toothpick through the plastic wrap into the individual compartments.
Place the tray in the freezer until frozen—2 to 4 hours.
Remove the plastic wrap, loosen the ice cubes, and remove the popsicles.

Optional: Show students the following directions (with steps and photos) for how to make popsicles: http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Popsicle-Snacks.

When the students finish making the popsicles, remind them that they have just been producers. Ask the following:
- How were you producers? (They made popsicles.)
- How can you use the popsicles? (Eat them.)
- When you eat a popsicle, are you a consumer or a producer? (A consumer)

Tell the students you have another verse to add to the song they sang previously (to the tune of “All Around the Mulberry Bush”). Sing each line in turn and have the students repeat it.
♫ When I make an OJ pop, I am a producer.
♫ When I eat my yummy treat, I am a consumer.

Now sing the entire song together:
♫ The farmer who grows an orange, he is a producer.
♫ The little boy who eats it up, he is a consumer.
♫ When I make an OJ pop, I am a producer.
♫ When I eat my yummy treat, I am a consumer.

Tell the students that there are different parts to a story. Stories have a beginning—the start of the story. Ask the students what happened at the beginning of the story, An Orange in January. (The land “glowed with spring light.” An orange blossomed. The bees feasted. The orange began to grow.) There are things that happen after the beginning—in the middle of the story—that help us know more about the story. Ask the students for examples of things that happened in the middle of An Orange in January. (The orange was picked. The orange was bagged. The orange road a long way in a truck. The orange arrived at the grocery store.) And, then there is an end to the story. Ask the students for examples of things that happened at the end of An Orange in January. (A little boy took the orange home. He took the orange to school. He shared the orange with friends.)

Distribute a copy of Handout 3.1: Story Order to each student. Instruct the students to color the pictures and then number them in the order they occurred in the story.
They will put a “1” under what happened at the beginning of the story, a “2” under what happened in the middle of the story, and a “3” under what happened at the end of the story. When they are finished, instruct them to circle the picture of the producer and underline the pictures of the consumers.

Extension Activity Suggestions

Color
• Identify items around the classroom that are orange.
• Ask the students to bring something for show-and-tell that is orange.

Literacy
• Read the story The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza by Philemon Sturges (ISBN: 978-0-525-45953-7). Discuss who the producers and consumers are in that story.

Science
• Talk about the likely weather in the month of January. Discuss the change that occurred while the orange juice was in the freezer.

Shapes
• Tell the students an orange is a sphere, or round, like a ball. Identify other objects around the room that are spheres or ask the students to bring something for show-and-tell that is a sphere.

Social
• In An Orange in January, the little boy shares an orange with his friends. Ask the students to give examples of times they shared with friends.
• Talk about holidays that take place during the month of January, such as New Year’s Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Producers

Producers are people who make or grow goods and provide services.
Consumers

Consumers are people who buy and/or use goods and services to satisfy their wants.
Directions: Color each picture and then number them in the order they occurred in the story.

What happened at the beginning of the story? Put a 1 under that picture.
What happened in the middle of the story? Put a 2 under that picture.
What happened at the end of the story? Put a 3 under that picture.
Circle the producer. Underline the consumers.
Lesson 4:
Just Saving My Money

Lesson Author
Erin A. Yetter, Ph.D., Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis–Louisville Branch

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students learn about banks and money. They recognize coins as money and manipulate them with classifying, sorting, and pattern-making activities. They draw a picture in a piggy bank of a good they would like to buy, cut out the bank, and hang it in the room. They hear the story Just Saving My Money and listen for the words “money” and “bank.” Finally, each student draws a self-portrait of going to a bank.

Grade
PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)
Bank
Money

School Readiness Skills
• Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
• Classify (same/different, alike/not alike) objects by physical features of shape, color, and/or size
• Recognize, copy, or repeat a patterning sequence
• Demonstrate scissors skills
• Participate in repeating a song
• Identify/point to the circle shape
• Use writing and drawing tools
• Attempt to write letters in own name
Time Required
Approximately 45 minutes

Materials
- Coins, about 10 of each denomination: penny, nickel, dime, and quarter
- Visuals 4.1 and 4.2
- Handouts 4.1 and 4.2, one copy for each student

Procedure
1. Show the students one penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. Ask them if they know what these are. (Answers will vary, but they might say coins, money, or name the denominations.)

2. Display Visual 4.1: Money Vocabulary Card. Tell the students the coins are called money. Money is what we use to buy goods and services. Coins (like the ones you showed them) and paper bills (like the $5 bill on the visual) are the most common types of money used.

3. Discuss the following:
   - Do you have any money—coins or dollars—at home? (Answers will vary, but students may say something like “Yes, my Grandma gave me $5 for my birthday.”)
   - Where do you keep your money? (Answers will vary, but students may say in a piggy bank or money jar or with an adult.)

4. Tell the students those are all good places to keep their money so they don’t lose it. Another good place to keep their money is in a bank.

5. Display Visual 4.2: Bank Vocabulary Card. Tell the students that a bank is a safe place to keep money. Ask the students if they have ever been to a bank. (Answers will vary.) Ask those who have been to a bank to describe the bank. (Answers will vary.) Tell the students some names of banks in your area.

6. Distribute a copy of Handout 4.1: Piggy Bank to each student. Have the students pretend they just got some money for their birthday. Ask them to draw in the piggy bank a picture of a good they would like to buy and then color it. Once completed, have them write their name on the piggy bank and cut it out. Hang the pictures around the room (you will refer back to these in the next lesson, “You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime.”)
7. Show the students the four coins again and ask the following:
   - Are all of these coins the same shape? (Yes.)
   - What shape are they? (A circle, or round)
   - Are all of these coins the same color? (No.)
   - Which coin is not the same color as the others? (The penny, the copper/brown one)
   - Are all of these coins the same size? (No.)
   - Which coin is the biggest? (The quarter, the big silver one)
   - Which coin is the smallest? (The dime, the small silver one)

8. Mix up the four coins in your hand and then lay them on a table. To reinforce what they just learned, call on students and ask them to sort the coins by shape, color, and size as follows:
   - Ask one student to put all of the coins together that are a circle, or round. (The student should group all of the coins together on the table.)
   - Ask another student to put the coins that are the same color together in groups. (The student should put the dime, nickel, and quarter together and leave the penny separate.)
   - Finally, ask another student (or two) to put the coins in order by size, from the smallest to the biggest. (The student(s) should order them dime, penny, nickel, and quarter.)

9. Tell the students they are going to play a game with the coins where they try to recognize a pattern. Gather all of the coins you have prepared for the lesson. Lay them out in various patterns. Call on individual students or pairs of students and have them complete each pattern by selecting the correct coin and placing it in the sequence. Some suggestions are below:
10. Show the students the cover of the book, *Just Saving My Money*. Discuss the following:
   - Where is the title of the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the title and read it aloud.
   - Where is the name of the author, the person who writes the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the author’s name and read it aloud.
   - Tell the students that the illustrator is the person who draws the pictures for the book. The author, Mercer Mayer, is also the illustrator of the book.
   - What do you think the book is about? (Answers will vary but may include saving or going to the bank.)

11. Tell the student that when a coin is dropped into a money jar or piggy bank, it makes a sound like this: “clink.” Tell them they are going hear a story about Little Critter, who does some things to earn money. As you read the story, every time they hear the word “money,” they are to say “clink!” (Money is mentioned 16 times in the book—specifically on the following pages: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 (two times), 25, 27, 28, 29, and 32.) Read the story.

12. Tell the students you are going to read the story again. This time they should listen for where Little Critter takes his money jar when it is full. Once you are done, discuss the following:
   - Where did Little Critter take his money jar when it was full? (To the bank)
   - What is a bank? (A bank is a safe place to keep money.)

13. Tell the students that in addition to banks being a safe place to keep money, they are also a convenient place to keep money. It is much easier to keep money in a bank, and to take it out when needed, than to carry around a money jar or piggy bank full of money. That would be heavy (Coins are heavy!) and unsafe (Someone could steal it!).

14. Distribute a copy of *Handout 4.2: Going to the Bank* to each student. Have the students pretend they have filled up their piggy banks or money jars and are going to take their money to the bank. Have them draw themselves in the picture taking their money to the bank.
Closure

15. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song, “My Piggy Bank.” It is sung to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Sing each verse in turn and have the students repeat it.

My Piggy Bank
♫ Oh, when my piggy bank is nice and full, nice and full, nice and full,
♫ Oh, when my piggy bank is nice and full I take it to the bank.
♫ The teller at the window counts my coins, counts my coins, counts my coins.
♫ The teller at the window counts my coins when I am at the bank.
♫ I know the bank will keep my money safe, my money safe, my money safe.
♫ I know the bank will keep my money safe until I take it out.

Extension Activity Suggestions

Art
• Have students make their own piggy banks.
• Have students create rubbings of coins.

Community
• Take a field trip to a bank.

Literacy
• Read the story *The Berenstain Bears Trouble with Money* by Stan and Jan Berenstain (ISBN: 0-394-85917-0). Discuss how the story is similar to and different from *Just Saving My Money*.

Social
• Ask students if they ever help around the house like Little Critter in *Just Saving My Money*. Make a chore chart of things students could do to earn money at home (e.g., help with the dishes, play with pets, or put toys away).

Math
• Practice counting using pennies. Have students drop one penny at a time into a jar, counting as they go.

Science
• Discuss what type of animal the students think Little Critter in *Just Saving My Money* is and what other animals are shown in the story.
Money

Money is what you use to buy goods and services.
Bank

A bank is a safe place to keep money.
Lesson 5:
You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime

By Harriet Ziefert / ISBN: 978-160905146-4

Lesson Author
Bonnie Meszaros, Ph.D., University of Delaware

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students learn about saving and spending. They listen to the story You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime and identify examples of saving and spending in the story by holding up a plus or minus sign (or stepping forward or back). Next, they follow along with another story about saving and spending by counting with pennies and copying actions mentioned in the story. They conclude by coloring pictures and identifying whether the pictures are examples of saving or spending.

Grade Level
PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)
Saving
Spending

School Readiness Skills
• Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
• Demonstrate gross motor skills
• Recognize details of a story as they appear in the beginning, middle, and end
• Participate in repeating a song

Time Required
Approximately 45 minutes
Materials

- *You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime* by Harriet Ziefert (ISBN: 978-160905146-4)
- *Shiny Pennies* by Charlotte Hughes (see page 5.11 in this lesson)
- Visual 5.1
- Visual 5.2, three copies, cut out so there are five large pennies
- Handouts 5.1 and 5.2, one copy for each student
- Piggy bank, jar, or can
- One coin

Procedure

1. Select one student to hold a piggy bank (or jar or can) and one to hold a toy. Drop a coin into the bank. Ask the students if they think you are spending your money or saving it. Tell them you are saving it. **Saving** means putting money aside to buy goods and services later.

2. Take the coin out of the bank and go to the student with the toy. Say that you want to buy the toy. Give the student the coin and take the toy. Ask the students if they think you are spending your money or saving it. Tell them you are spending it. **Spending** means using money to buy goods or services now.

3. Discuss the following:
   - Have you ever saved money? *(Answers will vary.)*
   - Where did you save your money? *(Answers will vary.)*
   - Have you ever spent money? *(Answers will vary.)*
   - What did you spend it on? *(Answers will vary.)*

4. Refer the students to the pictures they drew inside their piggy banks from the previous lesson (“Just Saving My Money”) and discuss as follows:
   - Ask each student to tell what he or she is saving for.
   - What was Little Critter saving for? *(A new skateboard)*
   - What did Little Critter actually end up spending his money on? *(A robot)*

5. Show the students the cover of *You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime*. Tell them that the story is about a boy named Pete who spends his money and saves his money. Ask the following:
• Where is the title of the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the title and read it aloud.

• Where is the name of the author, the person who writes the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the author’s name and read it aloud.

• Where is the name of the illustrator, the person who draws the pictures for the book? (On the front of the book) Point to the illustrator’s name and read it aloud.

• What do you think this book is about? (Answers will vary but may include an alligator or money.)

6. Ask students to listen for examples of saving and spending in the story. Read You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime.

7. Discuss the following:

• In the beginning of the story, what did Pete spend his money on at the store? (A dinosaur)

• After he spent his money, why was Pete sad? (He wished he had more money.)

• In the middle of the story, Pete did chores to earn money so he could start saving again. What chores did he do? (Show students pictures from the book to prompt them.) (He carried out old papers, swept the dirty floor, and sorted items for recycling.)

• What were some other ways Pete got money to save? (He received an allowance, found a dime, and sold baseball cards.)

• What did Pete do with the money as he got it? (He saved it by putting it in a jar.)

• At the end of the story, when Pete had saved more money, what did he do? (He spent it on another dinosaur.)

8. For pre-kindergarten students: Tell the students that you are going to reread the story. Every time they hear that Pete is saving money, they are to take a big step forward. When Pete is saving, he is adding to the money he has. Every time they hear that Pete is spending, they should take a big step back. When Pete is spending, he is taking money out of his savings.

For kindergarten students: Distribute a copy of Handout 5.1: Plus/Minus to each student. Tell them to fold the paper in half along the dotted line so one side shows a plus sign and one side shows a minus sign. Tell the students you are going to reread the story. Every time they hear that Pete is saving money, they are to hold up the plus sign. When Pete is saving, he is adding to the money he has. Every time they hear that Pete is spending, they should hold up the minus sign. When Pete is spending, he is taking money out of his savings.
9. Reread the book, stopping at points where Pete is spending or saving and asking students to hold up their plus or minus signs or step forward or back. (Pete saves on pages 1, 13, 16, and 22 and spends on pages 5 and 20.)

10. Have students form a circle. Place Visual 5.1: Alligator on the floor in the center of the circle. Show them the picture of the alligator on the front of the story Shiny Pennies (see page 5.11). Ask the following:
   - What do you think the alligator wants? (Candy)
   - How much would the alligator have to spend to get the candy? (5 cents)

11. Give five students each one of the large pennies from Visual 5.2: Pennies. Have the class count the pennies aloud (1-2-3-4-5).

12. Tell the students you are going to read this short story. Instruct them to stand in their places and copy the alligator’s actions. For example, when the alligator hops, they should jump up and down in place.

13. Read the story, pausing after each page so the students can act out how the alligator went to the store (walk, run, drive, skip, and hop.) At the end of each page, complete the following:
   - Ask one of the students holding a penny to place it on the alligator in the center of the circle.
   - Ask how many pennies the alligator has and count them as a class.
   - Ask if the alligator has saved enough pennies to buy what he wants or whether he has to save some more.

14. After the story, discuss the following:
   - Why didn’t the alligator spend the 5 pennies on candy? (He wanted to buy ice cream instead.)
   - How many more pennies does he need to save to buy the ice cream? (5)
   - Raise your hand if you would spend the 5 pennies on the candy.
   - Raise your hand if you would save for the ice cream.

15. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song, “Saving and Spending.” It is sung to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” Sing each verse in turn and have the students repeat it.
Saving and Spending
♫ If you want to save some money, clap your hands.
♫ If you want to save some money, clap your hands.
♫ If you want to save some money, then your bank will surely show it.
♫ If you want to save some money, clap your hands.
♫ If you want to spend some money, stomp your feet.
♫ If you want to spend some money, stomp your feet.
♫ If you want to spend some money, then your bank will surely show it.
♫ If you want to spend some money, stomp your feet.

Closure
16. Distribute a copy of Handout 5.2: Saving or Spending. Ask the students to color the pictures and then put a plus sign in the box by the picture that shows someone saving and a minus sign in the box by the picture that shows someone spending.

Extension Activities
Creative play
• Read the “Dinosaur Fingerplay” entry at http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/dinosaur.htm and have the students act out the gestures.

Literacy
• Read the book A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams (ISBN: 978-0-688-04074-1).

Science
• Discuss the different types of dinosaurs mentioned or depicted in the story, You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime, such as Tyrannosaurus rex and Stegosaurus.

Social
• Throughout the book, You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime, on the bottom right of the page there are callouts asking the students to make connections to their own life (e.g., Pete has $3.50. How much money do you have?). Discuss these questions with the students.
You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime

Handout 5.1: Plus/Minus

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Directions: Color the pictures. Put a “+” sign in the box by the picture that shows someone saving and a “−” sign by the picture that shows someone spending.
Shiny Pennies

By Charlotte Hughes

Illustrated by Katherine Ren
Al saves a shiny penny,
So he walks down to the store.
He wants to buy some candy,
But Ol’ Al needs 4 cents more.
Al finds a shiny penny,
So he runs down to the store.
He *really* wants some candy,
But he still needs 3 cents more.
From Dad Al gets a penny,
So he rides down to the store.
He wants to taste that candy,
But he still needs 2 cents more.
Al earns a shiny penny,
So he skips down to the store.
Oh, how he wants that candy,
But he still needs 1 cent more.
From Sis Al gets a penny,
So he hops down to the store.
He says, “I’ll save my pennies,
Because ice cream’s 5 cents more.”
Kiddynomics provides five engaging lessons based on popular children’s books to teach basic economic principles.

**Betty Bunny Wants Everything** by Michael B. Kaplan

*Choice — Wants — Scarcity*

**Dr. Seuss’s ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!** by Dr. Seuss

*Goods — Services*

**An Orange in January** by Dianna Hutts Aston

*Consumer — Producer*

**Just Saving My Money** by Mercer Mayer

*Bank — Money*

**You Can’t Buy a Dinosaur with a Dime** by Harriet Ziefert

*Saving — Spending*

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