Lesson 2c: Garden Menu Math

Concept: Students will be able to use quantities of currency to purchase seeds and any additional items for planting in the school garden.

Objective: After participating in this lesson, students will be able to:

- Make fair trades involving combinations of currency.
- Identify coins and bills by name and value.
- Understand that money can be saved by growing your own crops.

Lesson:

1. Read *Jack and the Beanstalk* (not included in these materials).
2. Ask the students to describe what Jack in the story exchanges for his cow and if they think he made a fair trade. Explain that farmers make exchanges too. Discuss how farmers grow food and sell it to make a living, as well as, what farmers receive in exchange for these goods and services. Use play or real currency to determine the name and value of coins and bills so that the students have a general knowledge of money before proceeding to the next activity.
3. Give each student a Garden Menu. (recommend making this into a folder activity, laminate for durability and reuse) Discuss the type of information that the Garden Menu provides. Have the students use the Garden Menu to complete the Garden Menu Activity sheets. (sheets can be laminated and completed with write and wipe markers)
4. After the students have completed the activity sheets, they can practice making monetary exchanges for garden supplies. Set up an area in the classroom that resembles a Garden Center store (place for Garden center items to be displayed and a place for checking out). Label each item with price tags. Give each student a certain amount of money at their seats. The students can choose an item from the store, determine the price of the item, and count out the corresponding amount of money to purchase the item. They will bring their money and item up to the cashier who could be a student or the teacher. This activity can also include opportunities to make change.
5. After the students have gained experience in purchasing garden items, the class can come back together to create a purchase order for the school garden. Survey the garden area to help decide what is needed to get the gardening process started. Include the actual cost of each item and the total on the list.
6. Brainstorm with the students the many ways that these garden items can be acquired. Consider fundraising and donation options as alternatives to purchasing the items. Local garden centers and parents may be willing to donate supplies and time towards the project.