



Our Town Bank & ATM



Introduction to the Exhibit:

Working in Our Town pays off! After a hard day's work as a vet, postmaster, cashier, mechanic, firefighter or farm hand, stop by the bank to withdraw some money to spend, save, or donate. Here is an opportunity to role play; be a bank teller or customer! The real automated teller machine dispenses play money which can be locked in the safe, used in the Market or donated.

The Power of Play:

By role playing and creating real life situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success with peers. During play, children make discoveries about appropriate behavior and enhance their

ability to think creatively. In addition to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, engaging in role play teaches children valuable social skills (such as the ability to understand different perspectives) that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit encourages children to share ("Can we take turns taking out money?"), listen ("How much money are you withdrawing today") and negotiate ("You can be the bank teller now and I can try it later.") while learning to work in pairs and groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a bank teller) enables children to make choices and develop leadership skills. Play money enables children to practice early math and social skills that they can use in real life situations.

ASK: What are different ways to earn money? What types of jobs would you like to try? Where else in Our Town have you used money? How much money will you need to buy groceries in the market? Can you enter that amount into the ATM? What could you do with your money? Do you need to use it now or could you save it for later? Do you want to donate your money to the collection box or share it with a friend? Can you tell me what a multiple of five might be? Can we count by fives to find out?

LISTEN: Listen as your child counts. Listen to her plan how she is going to save or spend her money. Listen for any conversations she starts with other children in the exhibits as she spends money in the market, vet or car shop. How does she react to the money? Some children may become very excited about having play money of their own. Listen to understand how she views money and how it is used.

LOOK: Look at how to properly make an ATM withdrawal. What amounts work as multiples of five? What amounts do not work? Look around each section of Our Town to think about where one might spend money. Can you find the cash registers? How is each one related to its exhibit?

Key vocabulary WORDS to USE in this exhibit:

Bank	Count	Save	Earn
Five	Spend	Donate	Receipt
Safe	Check	Deposit	Withdrawal
Account	Budget	President	Bill

After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!

When you visit the bank or ATM, talk with your child about where money comes from, how you earn money, and what you need money for. When going shopping, encourage your child to count with you to see if she has enough money to make a purchase. Use a piggy bank (or make one out of construction paper) with your child, showing her how to put her money away for safekeeping. Take time to count the money with her and record the amount each time. You can watch together as her savings grow! Practice donating when you visit a store by “leaving a penny” in the bin or find a cause to which you can donate together and talk to your child about where that money goes and whom it helps.

Special thanks to our exhibit sponsor:

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