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ONE A PENNY TWO A PENNY

Some children do not yet understand the concept of money as a medium; some children understand the abstraction but not the intrinsic value; others steal. Next to dirty pictures and bad words, money and all its ramifications cause the most trauma with children and adults.

Children learn their money concepts from home, school, field trips and many other sources.

Robby and his father passed a Salvation Army Christmas kettle and father dropped in a coin. After looking in the store windows, they turned to ~~return~~ retrace their steps and Robby stopped his father short of the Salvation Army bucket. "If we go that way, we'll have to pay again!"

Keith smiled contentedly as he hugged his big bag of fruit given him by ~~Mr. Eng at the wholesale~~ the wholesaler on the School field trip. "That's a good place to shop! You don't need any money!"

Monique, who had also enjoyed the wholesale fruit trip, listened attentively as the bank manager explained about currency. He held up a \$500.00 bill. "I'll take that one," cried Monique and expectantly held out her hand for the free sample.

After a delightful field trip to the post office where the children bought stamps for their valentines, Mr. Eng joked, "You don't think this field trip is free do you? How much do you think you'll have to pay?" Said the children with certainty: "Ten cents."

We sometimes get so concerned teaching children the money equivalents that we forget they must also be taught the moral obligations. Children each year bring pennies to count into little banks for practice in counting by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, in English

Spanish, and French. The pennies are given to charities. Said Scot, "I'm not going to give my pennies. I'm going to buy presents for my family." Mike counted twenty pennies meticulously into the bank and then demanded, "Now I want 'em back!" Amy clutched her four pennies. "Did you bring pennies to count?" "Yes. But I'm not going to." Kristin wanted very much to count pennies into the bank but her busy mother always forgot so one morning Kristin said she had brought pennies and counted pretend pennies carefully into the bank. She did it well and no one said a word until Megan spoke up in the quiet and said, plaintively, "I don't hear a thing!"

How much does your child know about money, his and yours? Stories are legion of adults who still suffer from memories of having stolen from mother's purse. Now is the time, by attitude and example, to help your child to learn the uses of money, purposes for spending, value, and above all the concept of inviolability of ownership. This done at 4 and 5 years may prevent a 10 year old thief. Or another Watergate?