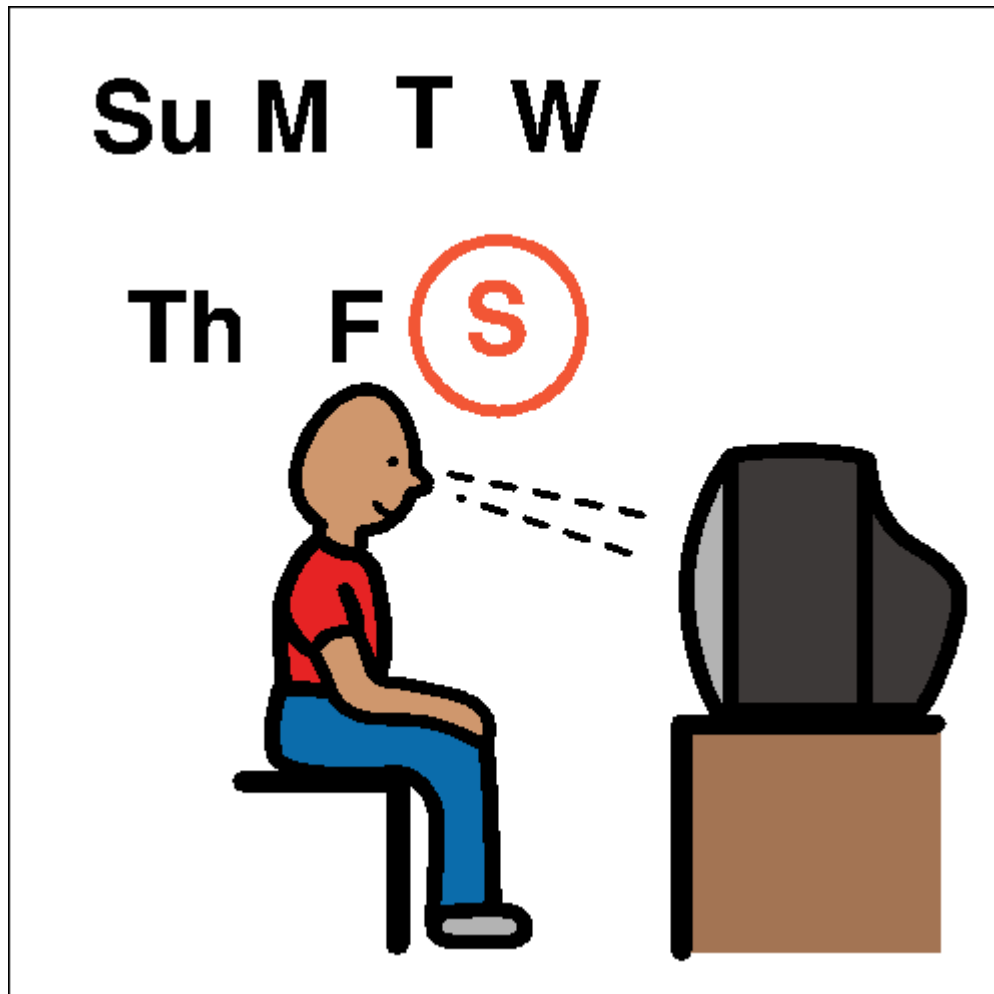
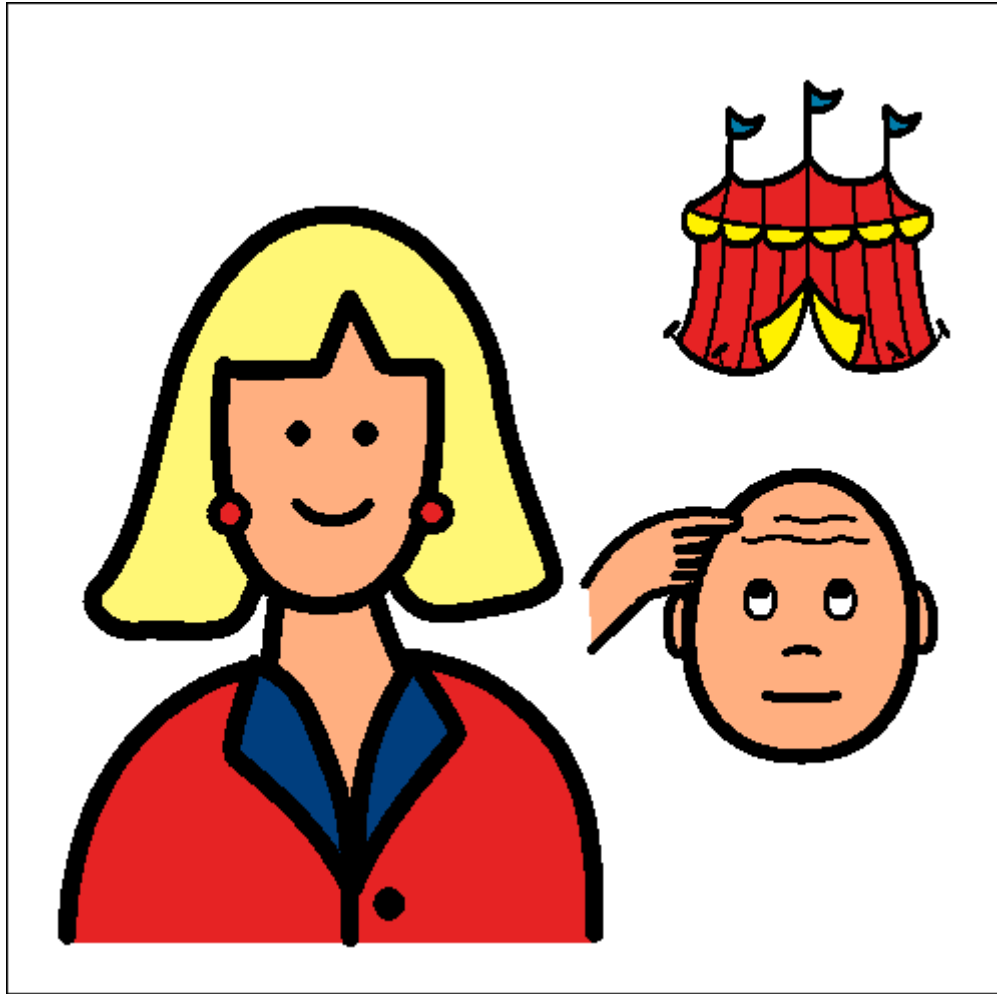


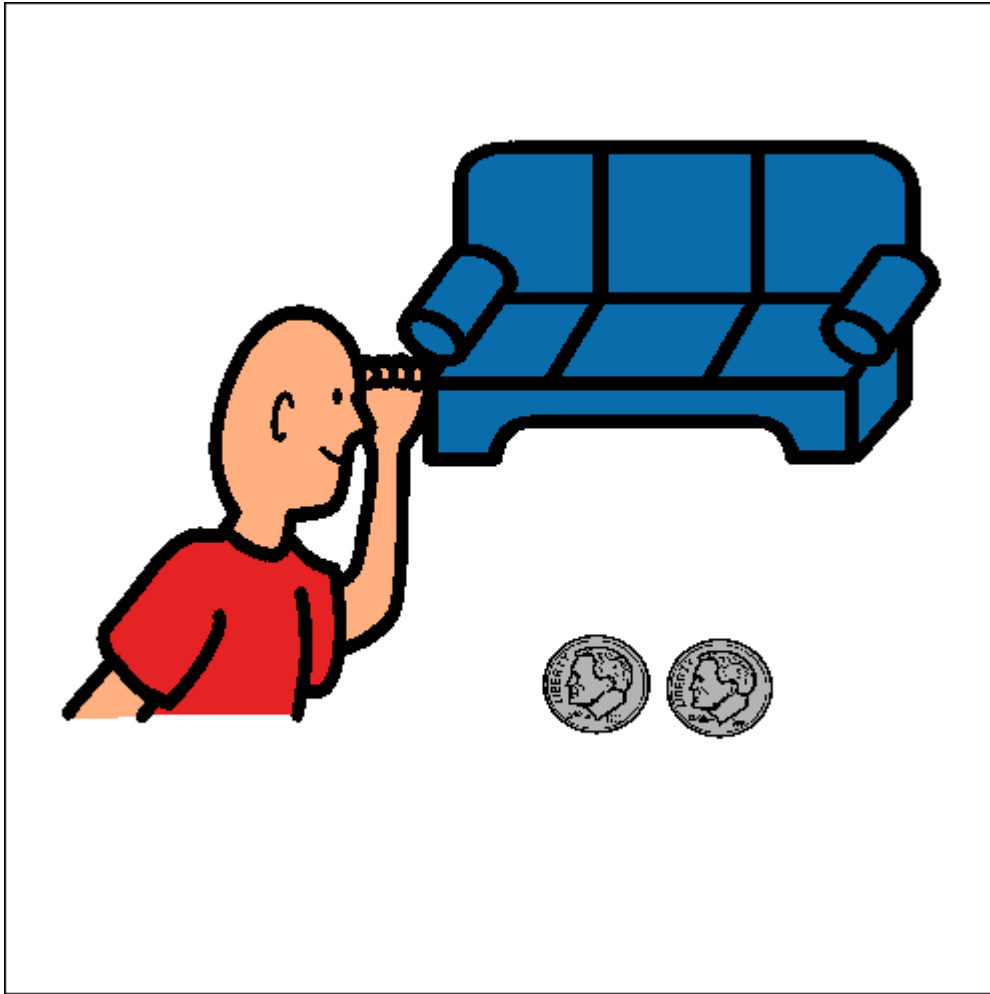
# Jason and the Circus Money



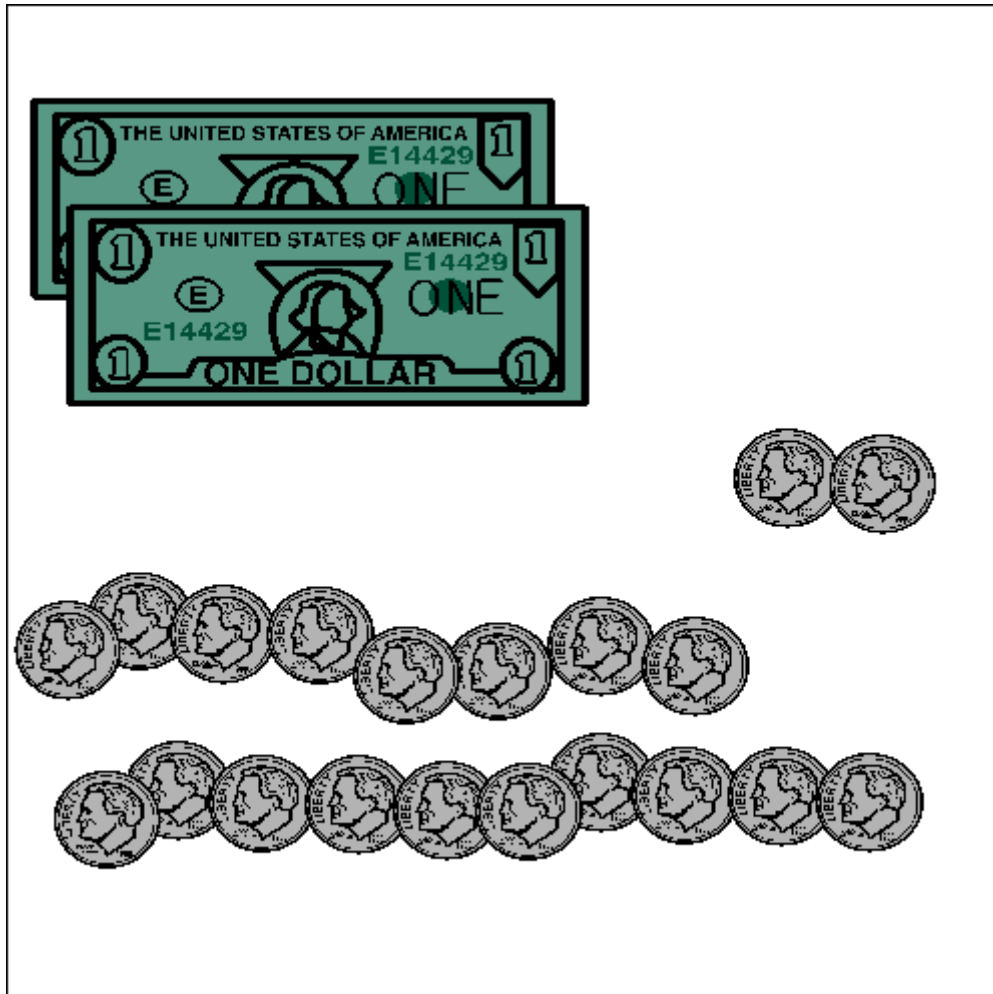
It was Saturday morning, and Jason was watching television. Between two shows there was a commercial about the circus. On the screen were elephants and dancing bears and clowns. A voice said, "The circus will be in your town in two weeks! Don't miss it!"



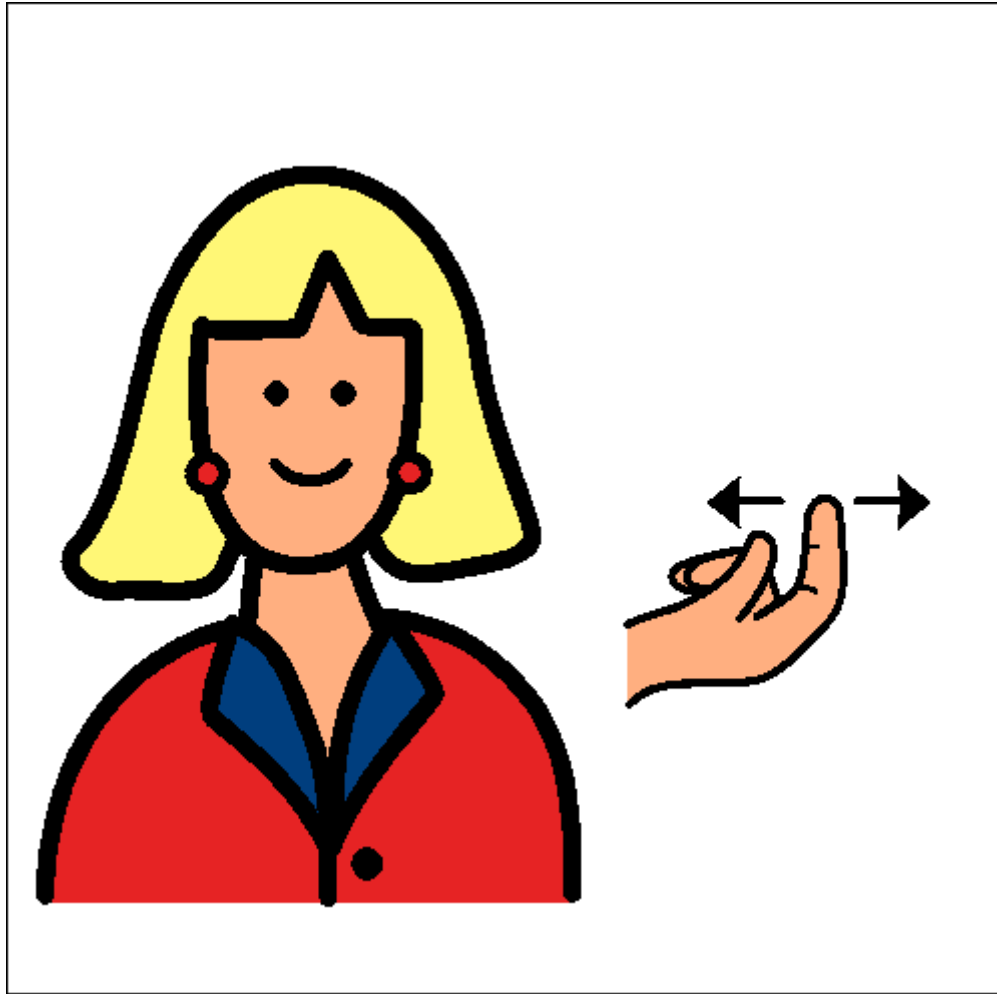
Jason ran to tell his mother he couldn't miss the circus. His mother said, "Jason, we've just spent a lot of money on your birthday. If you want to go to that circus, you'll have to earn enough money to buy your own ticket."



Jason thought hard about that - so hard that he didn't even watch the rest of the television show. He looked under all the cushions on the couch and chairs and found two dimes.

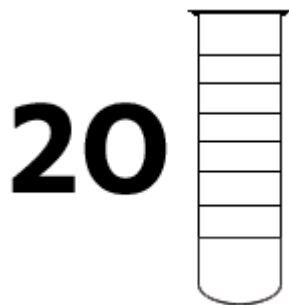


He went and asked his mother how much a ticket cost. She said, "Two dollars." "How many dimes is that?" asked Jason. "Twenty," said his mother; "As many as all of your fingers and all your toes." "I've got two already." Jason said, holding up his dimes.

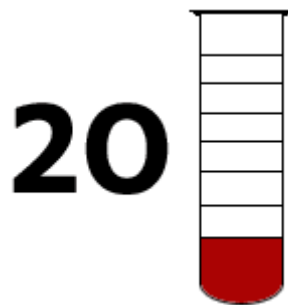


His mother smiled at him and took his hand. "Come with me," she said.

The paper looked like this:



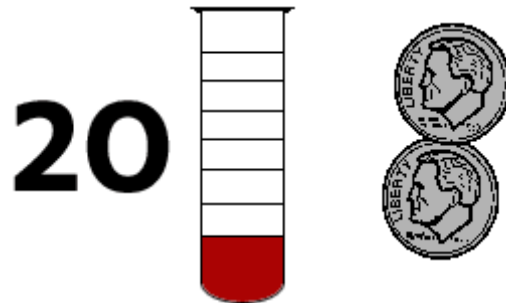
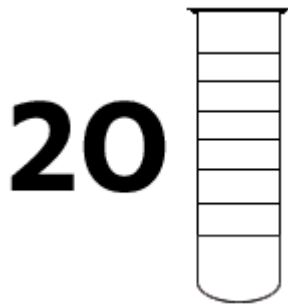
She colored in two squares in the tube with a red crayon, like this:



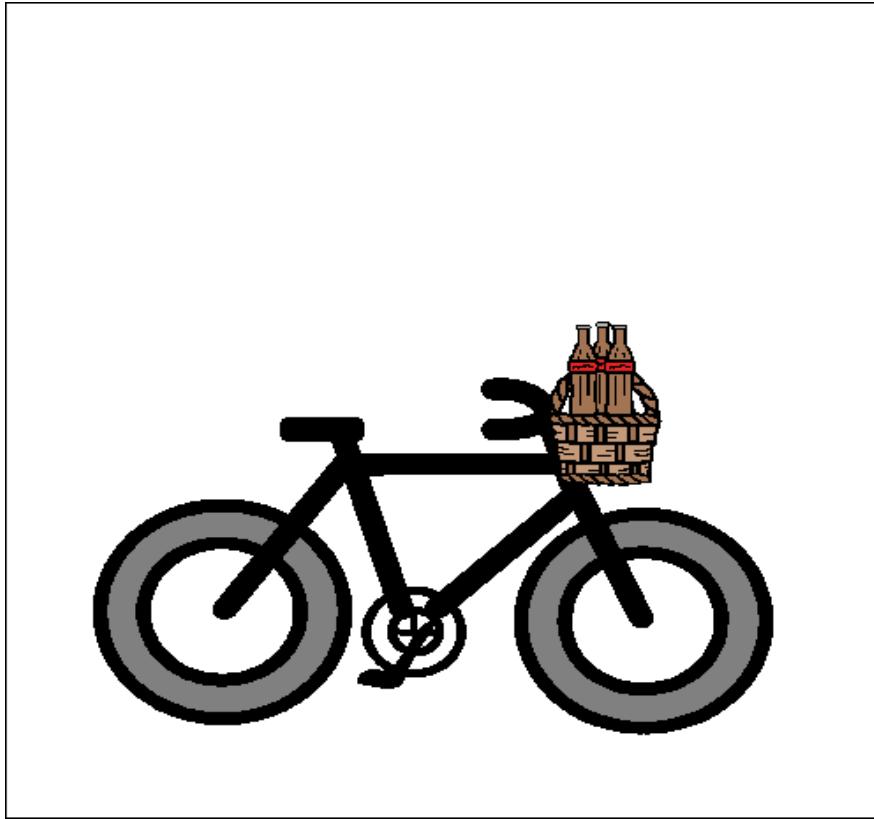
Jason's mother got a large sheet of paper and drew a big, king-size "20" on it. Then she made a long tube by the side with some marks on it.

The paper looked like this:

She colored in two squares  
in the tube with a red  
crayon, like this:



Jason got the idea before she even told him. He said, "Every time I get another dime, I'll color a square until I get up to twenty!" "Right," said his mother, "and there are some old soda bottles in the basement that are worth ten cents each."



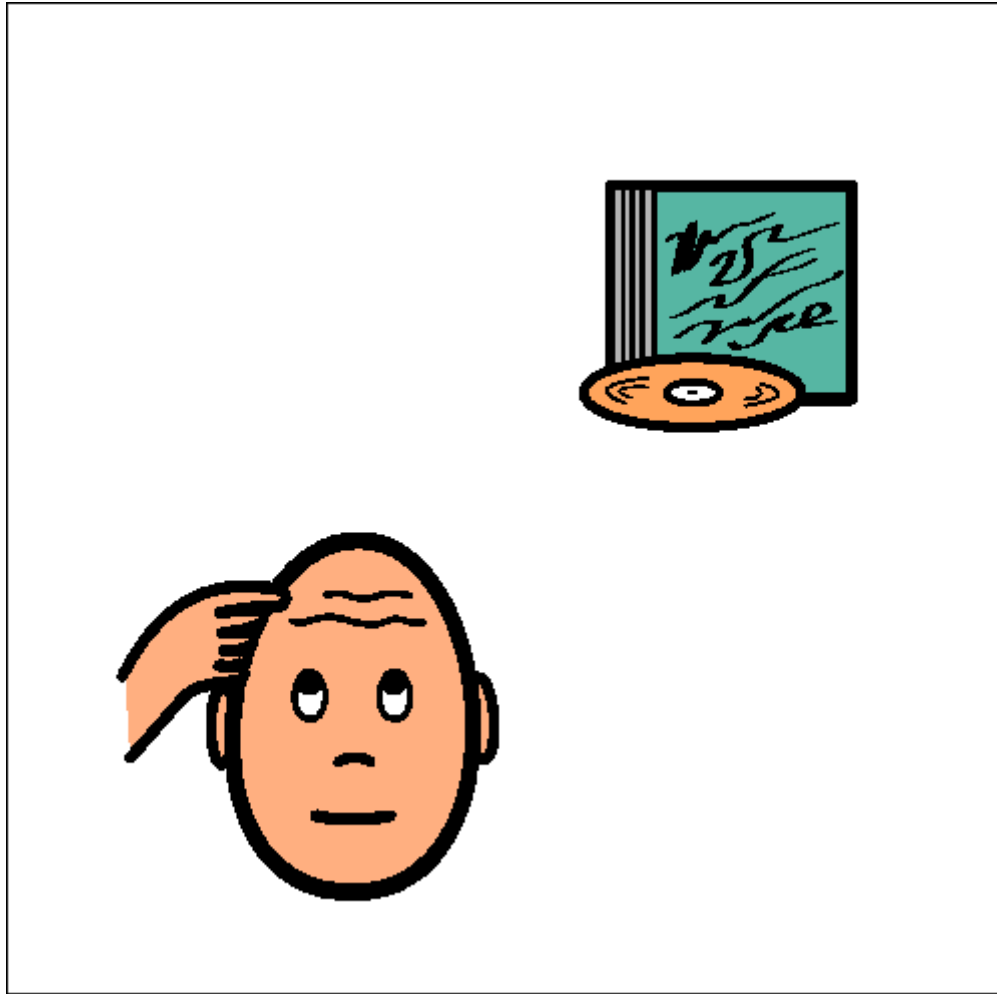
Jason found three bottles in the basement. He put them in his bicycle basket and pulled them around the corner to the grocery store. He got three dimes and colored in three more squares.



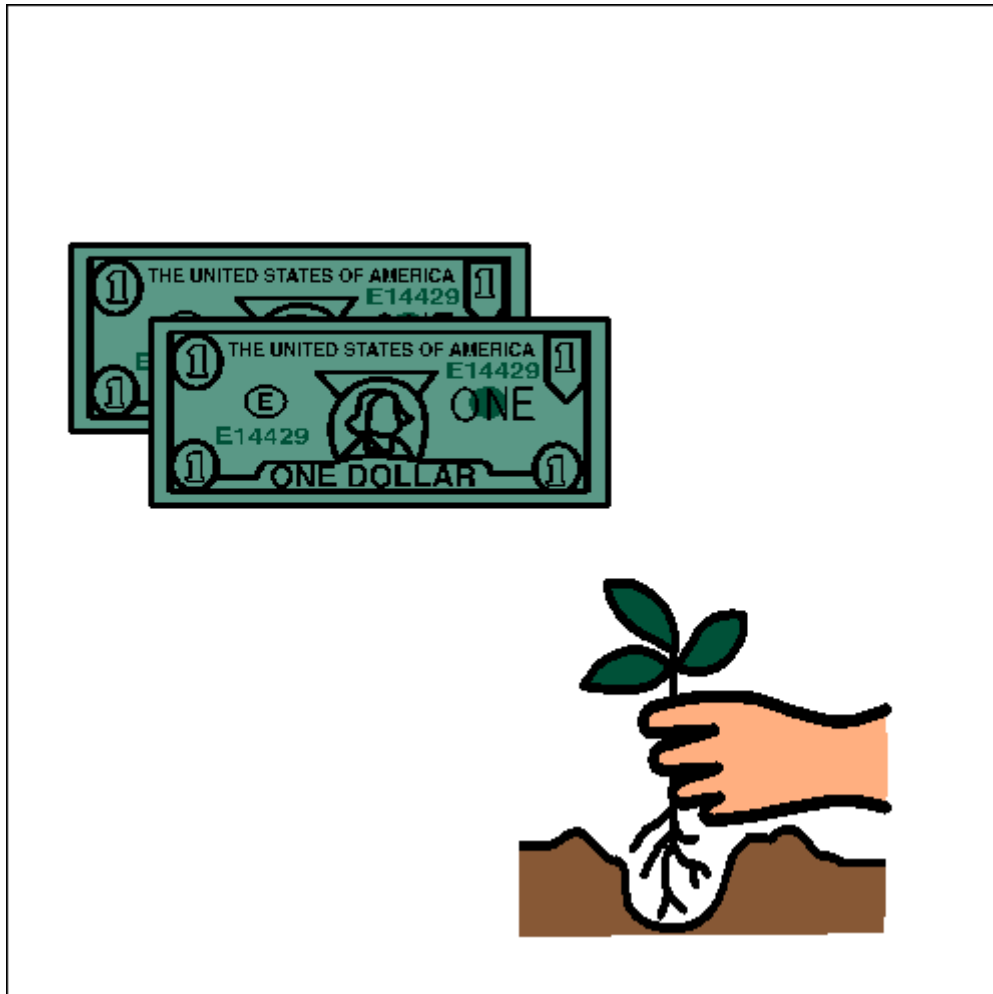
"What now, Mom?" Jason said. "Well, I don't know," said his mother. "Can you think of any more ways to earn some more dimes?" Jason said, "More pop bottles." His mother said, "Sorry, that's all we have." Jason said, "Maybe Mr. Johnson next door has some. I'll go see." Mr. Johnson didn't have any old pop bottles, but he did have a backyard that needed cleaning, and he told Jason he would give him two dimes to do it. Jason did it.



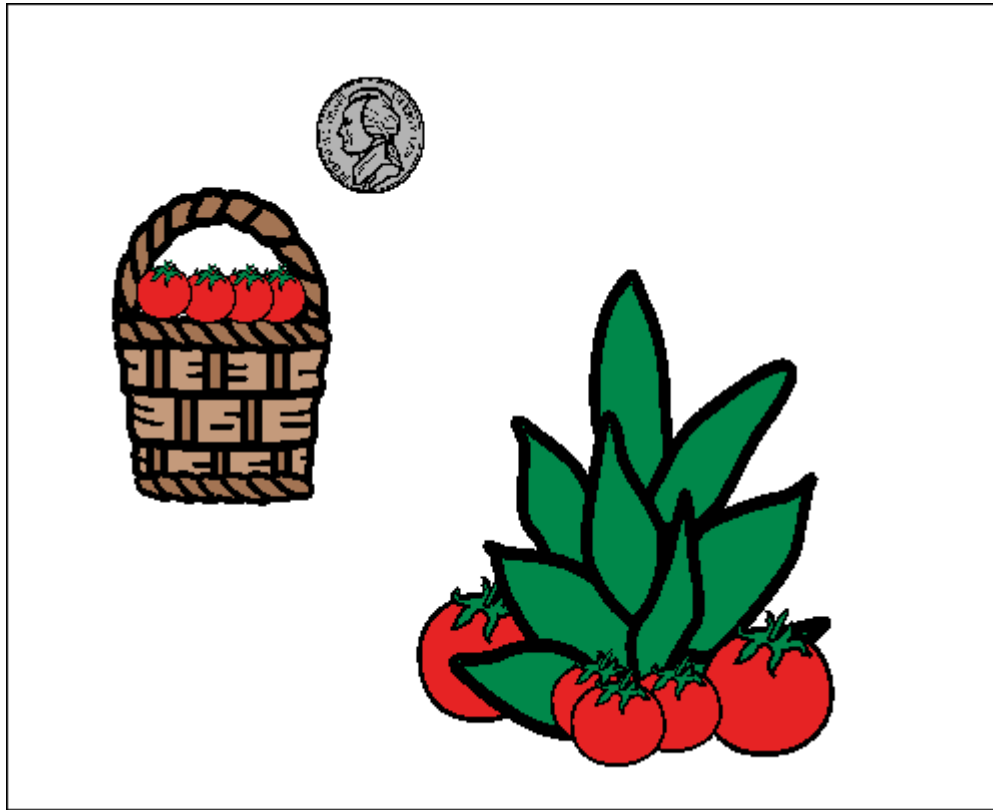
Jason kept thinking of things. By Saturday, do you know what his chart looked like? That's right, it was completely filled in - and it was a very good circus!



On the way home from the circus, Jason was thinking hard. He said, "Mom, do you think I could ever earn enough money to buy myself a video game?" "I think so," said his mother, "but it would take a long time."



That night his parents had a long talk - and got a good idea. The next morning Jason's father said, "Jason, I think if I lent you two dollars to buy some tomato plants, you could raise some tomatoes in the garden this year. If you take good care of them and sell the tomatoes when they grow, you can get enough money to give me back my two dollars and to buy your very own video game."



All summer Jason watered his plants and pulled the weeds out. When the tomatoes got red, he picked them and put them in a bucket; then he knocked on the neighbors' doors. "Would you like to buy some tomatoes?" he said. ". . . Only a nickel each." Every day more tomatoes were red. Every day Jason sold them. By autumn Jason had sold all the tomatoes. He had enough money to pay his father the two dollars and also to buy one present for himself: a video game!

