Counting Change Up to $1.00

Use this graphic to help students visualize what is happening when they are counting change up to $1.00. Use with any “How much change back?” money problems. This is set up for them to pay with $1.00, but can easily be used for a $5.00 or $10.00 bill.

1. Students place their penny stack so that the top of the stack matches the amount of money they need to pay, on the left.
   If they buy something for $0.49 hand them a dollar, they would put the top of the stack just under the $0.50 mark on the left.

2. Ask students to find the next milestone going up.
   If they needed to pay $0.49, the next milestone would be $0.50.

3. Ask what coin/coins will get them to that milestone.
   They should see that $0.49 is one penny away from $0.50.

4. Then, have students get to $1.00 with the least amount of coins.
   Once students get used to the biggest milestones ($0.25, $0.50, $0.75, $1.00), they get fast at making it to $1.00 using quarters.

5. Have students go back and tell you the milestones they passed with each coin.
   For example, they would say forty-nine cents, fifty, seventy-five, one dollar.

6. Now, have students use the coins to count up to $1.00. Finally, they would say forty-nine cents, fifty, seventy-five, one dollar as they put down 1 penny and 2 quarters, one at a time along the right side of the paper.