



## “The Pickle Patch Bathtub” by Frances Kennedy

Don't miss the author's information on page 28 of this guide!

This book illustrates how a goal can help us order our money choices to buy something of value. This exercise provides the opportunity to:

1. Link the action in the book *The Pickle Patch Bathtub* to today's students;
2. Teach how a goal helps us order our actions so we can achieve our objective; and
3. Encourage students to write a goal and related action steps.

**Time Limit:** 40 minutes

### Supplies Needed:

- *The Pickle Patch Bathtub* by Frances Kennedy
- 6-foot long paper with vine drawn on it
- From master, five leaves with goal steps written on them
- From master, picture of cucumbers
- Large brown circle to represent seeds
- Tape



### Grow Money Through Goals

**(1)** What do you think a dime, a cucumber and long legs have in common? (*accept responses*) All of these items play an important role in our story today, *The Pickle Patch Bathtub* by Frances Kennedy. We now live in the year 2012. Today's story takes place in 1925--that's 87 years ago! You may have a grandmother or grandfather who are in their eighties. Back then, things cost a lot less than they do today. In 1925, a bathtub cost about \$10. Today, a bathtub would cost more than \$100! You could buy a lot more things with a dime in 1925, than you can buy with a dime today. But, one thing that hasn't changed, is that kids back in 1925 and kids in 2012, still save money to buy things they want and need.

When I say I am going to save money, what am I going to do? *Hold up a dollar bill. For younger children you can have fun with them before taking responses by posing some silly questions:*

- Does saving money mean firefighters save this dollar bill from a burning building?
- Does it mean that lifeguards save this dollar bill from drowning?

*Take responses.*

Saving money means I put some of my money away to use later. It means not spending it all at once. In today's story we read about a group of children who set a savings goal and then worked and saved for months before they could reach their goal. I wonder how many of you could do something like the kids in our story today? We'll find out.

### **(2)** *Read the story.*

Who can tell me what role a dime played in our story today? (*Carlyle gave his dime to reach the savings goal of buying a bathtub. If Carlyle had not chosen to give his dime to reach the savings goal, they would not have had enough money.*)



We learn from Carlyle that even a small savings amount is important because, when added to other savings over time, it will grow to larger amounts of money.

What role did a cucumber play in today's story? (*The more cucumbers the children grew, the more money they earned and could save toward their savings goal of buying a bathtub.*)

We learn that sometimes it takes time and thought to figure out how to earn money. Sometimes, we can earn money in surprising ways -- such as growing cucumbers!

How did long legs play a part in our story? (*Donna had grown too large for the washtub. That got Donna thinking about buying a bathtub.*)

We learn from Donna that when we have a strong need for or a desire for something, we can use that motivation to work toward a savings goal.

**(3)** At the start of our story time, I wondered how many of you could do something like Donna and her sisters and brother did. While we can't plant and grow cucumbers during our short time together today, we can grow a cucumber on paper.

*Before your time with the students, prepare a six-foot tall paper cucumber vine as illustrated on the facing page. Using the patterns provided in this guide (pages 17-18), make five large leaves from green construction paper, a brown construction paper circle for seeds, and a picture of the cucumbers. Roll out the cucumber vine and have the students help you hang it on a white board or flat surface in front of them.*

This is our cucumber vine. However, it's missing things. What is missing? (*cucumbers and leaves*) I happen to have leaves and cucumbers for our vines, but I'll need your help figuring out the order to place them on our vine. *Lay out the leaves on a table in front of the children. Each leaf will have one of the goal setting steps below written on it. Mix them up so they are not in order.*

- **Decide how much money you need.**
- **Find out where you will get the money you need.**
- **Earn money by working.**
- **Save your money.**
- **Put your savings in a safe place.**

What do we need to have before a vine would grow? (*seeds*) Just as the cucumber plant grows from seeds, we also build our savings from having a goal. Donna's goal was to buy a bathtub. From that desire grew her efforts to earn money, save it and eventually buy the bathtub. Each of us will have different things we will be saving our money for, but it will start with a goal. *Have one student tape the seeds sheet at the bottom of the vine nearest the floor.*

*If you have students old enough to read, have them read out loud the goal step on each leaf. Keep the statements out of order.* To build our cucumber vine we need to put our goals steps in the right order. Who would like to pick the first step to place on our vine?

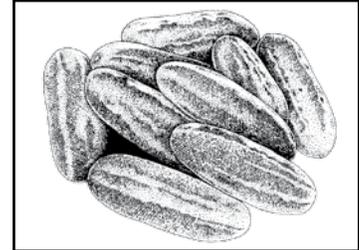


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*As a student selects the correct step, have the student tape the leaf to the vine starting at a point nearest to the seeds and working upward. Work with the students until all of the leaves are in the correct order and are taped to the vine.*

When we build off our savings goal, we will eventually begin to earn money and our savings will grow until we reach our goal. In this case, the cucumbers represent our goal. **Tape the cucumber picture at the top of the vine.** We can save for bigger, more expensive things or smaller items that cost less money. What are some smaller things we can save for? (*take responses*) What are larger, more expensive items we save for? (*take responses*)

Just like Donna and her sisters and brother saved for their goal, I encourage you to do the same. Be sure and talk with your parents tonight about how they've saved for things.



**SEEDS**  
**SAVINGS GOAL**

**You may use white shelf paper or tape white printer paper together to reach the six-foot length. Draw in the vine. The students will supply the leaves!**

**If time allows, you could have your students make a paper chain out of green construction paper. The five leaves would then be taped to the chain. The "vine" could be hung somewhere in the library after the cucumber and seed pictures are attached to either end.**



