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ANNE'S DISAPPEARING ALLOWANCE – EPISODE #26

Anne gets her first allowance. Enthralled by the luxuries of Lawson's General Store, she spends nearly all of it unwisely. Her spendthrift ways nearly cause her to lose allowance privileges until she comes to appreciate the importance of managing her own money.

Learning Objective

Planning ahead is always a challenge-especially when it involves money! Managing money and delaying gratification is a big step toward independence and self-sufficiency.

Life Skills Development
Cognitive Skill Development

Talking About the Episode

When Marilla and Matthew decide to give Anne an allowance, it gets the best of her. Not only does the money burn a hole in her pocket, but she neglects to save for the very thing she was hoping for.

This episode is ideal to introduce the concept of delayed gratification, a challenging concept for children as well as many adults. Lead the conversation about the episode toward the notion that while Anne was initially happy with her purchases, none of them leads to anything lasting.

- Anne received five weeks of her allowance at once, which was a lot on money. What did she do with it?
- How did her purchases make her happy (in the short term)? How did they make her unhappy?
- Anne and Diana want put on a magic show kit to earn money. How does Anne's allowance get in the way of their plans?
- What does it mean, "To buy friends"?
- At the end of the story, Marilla and Matthew took Anne to the bank to put her money in savings, why do you think they did that?

ANNE'S DISAPPEARING ALLOWANCE – EPISODE #26 (CONTINUED)

Needs and Wants

Use a large sheet of craft or butcher paper to create a classroom mural of *Needs* and *Wants*. Talk with children about the difference between something we need (food, shelter, water, loved ones) and those things we want (CD players, fashion, games). Give children magazines and have them cut pictures to represent each category. Have each child glue its pictures in the appropriate column.

Money Math

Playing with money can teach early lessons about math through sorting and patterns. Have children sort a pile of change into pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters and then count the coins in each category. Begin a pattern with different coins and then ask children to continue the pattern.

ZILLIONS

Consumer Reports is not just for grown-ups. ZILLIONS is a magazine and web site filled with reviews, activities and plenty of ideas for introducing children to responsible consumption. Child centered, the inside scoop on everything from toys and games to sneakers and cell phones, ZILLIONS will help children decode ads and understand the lures of advertising. Best of all, the web site and magazine are all free! Check it out at www.consumerreports.org!