

Thinking About My Future

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt, former First Lady of the United States, diplomat, activist



Tomorrow, next week, next year, and beyond – the future is ahead of you! Thinking about what you want in the future helps you make choices today.

Steps

1. Think about you in the past, present, and future
2. Wait for something special in the future
3. Think about what you would like when you are older

Purpose

When I’ve earned this patch, I’ll know more about how to make choices for my future.

Step 1: Think about you in the past, present, and future

Growing up means lots of new things. You have been through many changes since you were younger, like making friends and joining Girl Scouts. As you grow up, you will change more, too! You also will still be the same person you are in the present (today) and were in the past. What will you be like in the future as you get older?

Choose one:

- **Look at you through the years.** As you grow up, you look different – but still like you! Find a picture of you when you were younger. Next, take a picture of yourself in the present - acting just like the picture of past you. Then pretend you are older and imagine you are posing for the same picture. Dress up as older you and take a picture of what you would look like in the future.
- **Sample your favorite foods of all time.** You might change your mind about what food is the best. Try a sample of a food you thought was the best in the past when you were younger and the food that is your favorite now in the present. Is there is a food that you don’t like now, but might like in the future? Try that food, too!

Step 2: Wait for something special in the future

Sometimes you have to wait for special things because we don't have the money we need to pay for it right now. When you want to buy something that costs a lot of money or go somewhere fun, you may not have all of the money right away. Saving money helps you have the money to spend in the future. You might have the choice for something else right now or to wait for the special item we want. Think about what is important to you and what each choice can give you. Will waiting for a future goal help you more in the future?

Choose one:

- **Save your money for a special day.** After you've made a plan to save money for your goal, choose a place to keep your savings. You might have a piggy bank or use a jar, or visit a bank or credit union to open a savings account. Draw a picture of what you are saving for and put it where you can see it. When you've saved enough money to reach your goal, have fun enjoying your special treat!
- **Help a seed grow into a plant.** A tiny seed will become a beautiful flower or yummy herb or vegetable in the future if it is given everything it needs to grow. Plant a flower, herb, or vegetable seed and take care of it. While it grows, make notes in a chart or journal about how it grows and the time it takes to grow. Celebrate when the plant has grown by enjoying the flower or making a tasty snack with the herb or vegetable.

Step 3: Think about what you would like when you are older

The choices you make today help you have what you want in the future. When you set a goal for the future, you can make a plan to reach it. If you have an idea of what you might want when you are an adult, you can choose the things you learn and do now and how you save your money to help you reach your goals.

Choose one:

- **Plan your dream career.** If you could do any job when you grow up, what would it be? Would you invent a career that you've never heard of – like a fashion designer for robots or a veterinarian for animals in space? Draw a picture of you being a leader in a job you would like to have in the future. Talk with an adult about how you would get that career.
- **Build your future house.** Your house is a place for you - so when you have your own home, you can make it the way you want. What would your dream home look like? Use a shoe or cardboard box to build a small house. Design it to look like the way you would want to live when you are older. Give friends or family a tour of your house and talk about how you might get your dream home.