

Being Responsible for Ourselves and Our Pets

Lesson 1 - Responsibility

Time: 60 minutes

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

Dog Supply Bag, Buddy Unchained by Daisy Bix, ½ sheet of Construction paper & white paper for Responsibility books, Scissors, Coloring utensils

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

The students will be able to define what responsibility is, how it relates to having a pet, what dog's need, and how to meet a friendly dog.

ENGAGE (9 MINUTES):

Share a story about an animal at the East Bay SPCA. Introduce yourself and the East Bay SPCA. Discuss what the East Bay SPCA is, where the East Bay SPCA gets its animals, and what the East Bay SPCA does.

Introduce the topic of the day: Responsibility. Make the students repeat the word, slowly, quickly, loudly, quietly, and count the syllables. Have a student spell it out for you as you write it on the board, then have a student define it (i.e. Responsibility: Doing what you need to do, taking care of things, etc.).

ACTIVATE (30 MINUTES):

Tell students that you have a bag with lots of things that you need if you are going to be responsible for taking care of a pet. Have students guess what's in the bag. When you pull an item out (i.e. grooming equipment, food bowl, leash, etc.), have one student tell you what it is, and another explains why you use it. Use this time to teach about the items as well (how often to feed, how to clip toenails, etc.). Write each item on the board as you go.

Read the book *Buddy Unchained* by Daisy Bix. Ask open ended questions about Buddy's situation as you go along. Check off each item on the board as you read the story.

Teach kids "How to Meet a Dog" properly.

1. Ask your adult
2. Ask the dog's adult
3. Ask the dog by holding a fist "doggie nose" out, but not into the dog's face. Once the dog sniffs them, they may gently pet the dog

GUIDED PRACTICE (20 MINUTES):

Hand out ½ sheet of construction paper and 2 half sheets white paper to each student to make a book. Have students color, cut and glue the dog supplies onto the pages of their books. They must also write a complete sentence on each page (i.e. Dogs need food two times a day, and fresh water always).

While they're working, invite table groups to come up and practice the steps and spend time with the dog.

CLOSURE (1 MINUTE):

Have the students practice with their neighbor the steps to meet a dog. Have the students practice with their neighbor the steps to meet a dog. Students can share with their neighbor how they can be responsible this week & how to be responsible with pets.

MODIFICATIONS:

If there is no animal for the presentation, teachers can contact local Animal Welfare organizations to see if they would be willing to bring in an animal for students to meet. Stuffed, plush animals will also work well to showcase pet care & interaction.

