

Being Responsible for Ourselves and Our Pets

Lesson 1 - Responsibility

Time: 45 minutes

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

Dog Supply Bag, *Buddy Unchained* by Daisy Bix, Construction Paper, Dog's Need Worksheets, Scissors, Coloring utensils

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

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

ENGAGE (5 MINUTES):

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, and quietly. Write the word on the board and talk about what it means.

ACTIVATE (20 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. 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 (a closed fist over thumb), but not into the dog's face. Once the dog sniffs them, they may gently pet the dog

REFLECT (20 MINUTES):

Have students color and cut out only the things that dogs need on the Dogs Needs Worksheet and glue them to a sheet of construction paper.

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

CLOSURE (1 MINUTE):

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.

