



Educate Together



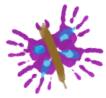
Class Level
3rd/4th Class

Lesson Plan 1

Responsibility



Curriculum Links	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living Things	Plant and Animal Life
English	Oral Language	Developing cognitive abilities through language
SPHE	1. Myself 2. Myself & the Wider World	1. Growing and Changing; Making Decisions 2. Developing Citizenship
Learn Together (Educate Together Schools)	1. Moral & Spiritual 2. Equality & Justice	1. Exploring Moral Development Cultivating Spiritual Growth 2. Activating Equality and Justice through Positive Action



Content objectives:

- Children understand the responsibilities involved in owning a pet.
- Children are introduced to the Five Promises and understand that they have an active role in promoting these among their own families and friends.

Learning objectives:

- Children appreciate that pet owners have a responsibility to care for their pet.
- Children understand that there are a number of things that need to be considered before obtaining a pet.
- Children understand that animals have needs and feelings.
- Children understand that there is a routine in looking after an animal.

Resources:

Short film "A Dog's Tale"
<http://www.learnwithdogs.ie/movies.aspx>

Extension Exercises:

Follow up research – find out about the work of Dogs Trust via www.dogstrust.ie.

Linkage and Integration:

English: Use 'TALE' (as in the film title) and other dog related words e.g. collar, breeder, lead as a starting point for a homonym exercise.

Assessment:

Teacher questions/children's questions.



Learning activities:



3rd/4th Class

Lesson Plan 1

Introduction

- Begin the lesson by asking the children if they have pets at home.
- What kind of pets do they have? Elicit stories from the children about their pets.

Ask the children how they can be a responsible pet owner. What kind of thing do we need to do to look after our pets? The children's suggestions can be written on a flip chart or on white board.

Development

- Question the children as to why we should look after our pets.
- This leads to a conversation on how, like us, pets have feelings, wants & needs.
- Human needs/feelings and animal needs/feelings are very similar.
- Explain that before buying a pet you need to consider the following:

Explain **Dog's Trust's 5 Promises Pledge** which all pet owners should promise to their animals:

Promise 1 - Love

I promise to: provide my pet with love and attention.

Promise 2 - A home

I promise to: provide my pet with a suitable place to live.

Promise 3 - Safety

I promise to: protect my pet, to keep her or him safe and healthy.

Promise 4 - Food and water

I promise to: provide my pet with a healthy diet.

Promise 5 - To be themselves

I promise to: provide my pet with a life that she or he will enjoy.

a) Lifestyle

Do you have the time and willingness to care for a pet? Are you willing to train the pet if needed? Would the pet be left alone for long periods?

Play the short film "A Dog's Tale". <http://www.learnwithdogs.ie/movies.aspx>

b) Environment

Is there suitable accommodation for a pet? Do you live in a flat or a house? Is there a garden? Will the pet be able to spend time/sleep inside?

c) Budget

Pets need a nutritionally balanced diet and will have to visit the vet for vaccinations and possible emergencies. This can be costly.

Conclusion

- After the film – pupils explain what they think happened next.
- What advice would they give to Jamie and his mum to help them make a decision?



Notes on "A Dogs Tale"



3rd/4th Class

Additional Differentiation, Linkage & Integration:

Lesson Plan 1

Introduction

Whilst primarily about responsible dog ownership, the video also allows teachers to raise a variety of issues, such as our responsibilities as human beings, caring for others and dependency.

Possible further discussion points:

Teenage Jamie tries to persuade Mum to allow him to have a dog. Wanting something badly – how does it feel? Should Mum give in?

- Where might the most suitable place be to get a dog? Shelter / re-homing Centre? Pound? Breeder? Pet Shop?
- People can look after themselves as they grow up. Dogs can't. Different ages, different needs. How do dogs ask for help? Dependence on the owner.
- The dog in the poster in the dream sequence tells Jamie what is involved in caring for a dog. How could Jamie have found out for himself? Do all dogs/pets have similar needs?
- What are the cost implications of dog ownership?

Possible further activities linked to the film;

Make an entry for Mum's / Jamie's diary for the day that he comes home with the request. The children should demonstrate empathy with the feelings of the characters.

- Re-tell the dream sequence from the dog's perspective.
- Create a series of cards with missing letters, ask pupils to identify a dog's needs (for reinforcement).
- Re-tell the story in cartoon form or narrative, or as a device for getting the message across to a different audience (e.g. Pre-school children).
- After the film – pupils explain what they think happened next. What advice would they give to Jamie and his mum to help them make a decision? Findings could be used to create a classroom display.

