



Kindness: It's in the Bag!

Adapted by Amelia Saris

Grade Levels: K-2

Objective: Upon completion of the lesson, the students will identify ways of showing kindness to animals through creative storytelling.

Standards Addressed:

Language Arts

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.K.1 (a, d and f) or CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.1.1 (a and e)

Health

NPH-H.K-4.2 Health Information, Products and Services

NPH-H.K-4.5 Using Communication Skills to Promote Health

Character Concept: There are many ways of showing kindness, including helping others, spending time with them, and understanding their wants and needs. This applies to pets as well as human beings.

Materials Needed:

- brown paper bags (one for every two students in your classroom)
- pet-care items: a collar, ID tag, leash, dog food, cat food, ball, water bowl, toy stethoscope, medicine dropper, bandage
- miscellaneous items: small objects, for example, a watch, shoe, pen, cell phone, glove, rock, bandage, toy car, keys
- representations of cats and dogs (plush toys, cardboard cut-outs, etc.)
- Animal Care Worksheets – one per student
- Smart Board or easel paper/ marker

Helpful Background Information:

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/pets>

Teacher Preparation:

1. Assemble “mystery bags” for each pair of students. In each bag, place the representation of a dog or cat and one item from the pet-care list above as well as one item from the miscellaneous list above.
2. Create a *Pet Problems/ Ways to Show Kindness* chart (as shown below) on the board or paper.
3. At some point before the lesson, divide class into pairs.

Lesson Procedure:**Opening Activity:**

1. Ask students to brainstorm answers to the question “What problems do pets have sometimes?” with their partner. After 1-2 minutes, ask partners to share with the group. Write responses on white board, SmartBoard, or large paper in the front of the room.
2. Ask students what they think when they hear about these problems.
3. Ask students to brainstorm with their partners answers to the question, “How can we show kindness to pets who are (insert pet problem from list)?”, keeping in mind the specific things they came up with a few minutes ago. After a few more minutes, ask partners to share with the group. Record responses on the right hand side of the column. If solutions are left out that seem instrumental to the conversation, elicit those solutions from students with questions.

Sample Chart:

| Pet Problems | How Show Kindness to Them |
|--|---|
| Animals live in a homeless shelter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt or find someone who wants to adopt • Collect supplies to donate to animal shelters |
| Pets get sick | Take them to the vet |
| Pets are having too many puppies to take care of | Get pets “fixed” |
| We find lost animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call police or animal control • Put up signs with animals’ picture/description |
| Animals are thirsty on a hot day | Keep large water bowls outside and make sure they are full |
| Animals are hungry | Give animals food |

Lesson Body:

1. Tell students that they are now going to create a story where they can share how they would show kindness. Pick up a mystery bag. Pull out all of the props in the bag and spread them out (for example, a dog representation, a water bowl and a cell phone). Pick up the toy dog and say "I found a dog wandering around my neighborhood. He didn't have a collar and was thirsty"). State how to show kindness (for example, pick up the cell phone: "I called Animal Control." Pick up the water bowl, "I gave the dog some water".)
2. Ask class: "What was wrong with my dog? ("He was lost"). How did I show kindness?" ("You called Animal Control and gave him some water").
3. Give each set of partners a mystery bag.
4. Instruct students to empty the contents of their bags in front of them.
5. Instruct pairs of students to come up with stories like yours using their props.
6. After about 10 minutes, ask pairs to come to the front of the room one at a time and tell their stories using their props. After each group presents, ask volunteers in the class to answer the questions "What had happened to their animal? How did they show kindness?"

Closure:

1. Explain to students that each of them will receive a worksheet that describes one problem an animal may have. Describe that they are to write a sentence in the given space and draw a picture of how they would show kindness to that animal. (If the students cannot yet write full sentences the teacher may transcribe their sentence.)
2. Hand out worksheets to students.

Extension:

1. Use items that would apply to being kind to wildlife in the bags instead. Ask students to generate stories about kindness to wild animals. Possible materials include: a piece of litter, a packet of birdseed, a plastic egg, a feather, twigs, or a toy or cut-out wild animal such as a bird or rabbit.

Animal Care Worksheets - Blackline Master

If a pet gets sick... I could



If an animal is
thirsty...



I could

If an animal is
homeless...



I could

If an animal is
hungry...



I could
