



Educate
Together

Lesson Plan 1

Pet Responsibility



Class Level
5th/6th Class

Curriculum Links

Strand

Strand Unit



Science

Living Things

Plant and Animal Life

English

Oral Language; Writing

Developing cognitive abilities through language

SPHE

1. Myself
2. Myself & the Wider World

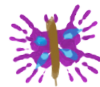
1. Growing and Changing; Making Decisions
2. Developing Citizenship

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.

Resources:

5 Promises Poster

Differentiation:

- Follow up research – find out about the work of Dogs Trust via www.dogstrust.ie.
- Find out about the work of the ISPCA via www.ispca.ie
- Find out what vets say about caring for animals at www.lovemypet.ie.

Learning objectives:

- Children understand that the right to own a pet comes with responsibilities.
- Children understand that there are considerations involved before they decide on an appropriate pet.
- Children understand that animals have needs and feelings.
- Children understand that there is a routine in looking after an animal.

Extension Exercises:

English: Oral Language Debate: Which of the 5 Promises is most important to an animal?

Assessment:

Teacher questions/children's questions.



Learning activities:



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Introduction

- This lesson will be conducted through Circle Time.
- Begin the lesson with a class discussion about animals and pets. What types of animals are generally kept as pets? Why are those animals chosen as opposed to others?
- What kind of pets do the pupils have?

Development

- Question the pupils on the term 'responsibility'.
- Explain that owning a pet has its own responsibilities. What kind of responsibilities does a pet owner have?
- Lead the discussion to explain that we are responsible for animals in our care as they have wants, needs and feelings that they cannot provide for themselves.
- Explain that human needs/feelings and animal needs/feelings are very similar. What are our needs? Why do we need them?
- Explain that before buying a pet you need to consider the following:

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?

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.

Ask the children how they can be a responsible pet owner. What kind of things do we need to do to ensure our pet is healthy and happy? The children's suggestions can be written on a flip chart on white board.



Learning activities:



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Explain **Dogs Trust 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.

After explaining each Promise, the children will be questioned on a time that they felt loved, safe or free to be an individual. Lead the conversation to times when they did not feel that way, as a way of eliciting empathy for the animals.

Conclusion

After the discussion the children will be asked to write their own charter of Pet Rights. What do they feel a pet should be entitled to and why.

