

Creating a Caring Class

OBJECTIVE

To create a caring classroom environment, where students respect and care about each other, and the people and pets in their lives.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will learn about the importance of respect and kindness which will be promoted through a variety of activities.

MATERIALS

- 🐾 Poster paper for a banner
- 🐾 Crayons & markers
- 🐾 Worksheet: "Choose an animal you like/Choose a person you admire"
- 🐾 Worksheet: "This week I was kind to people and animals by doing the following things..."
- 🐾 "Share the World" video

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 What does it mean to respect another person or animal? Ask students to give examples of how they've been respectful toward others.
- 🐾 What does it mean to be kind to another person or animal? Ask students to give examples of how they've been kind toward others.
- 🐾 Why is it important to be kind and respectful to animals as well as people?
- 🐾 What are some ways that you can be respectful and kind to the people in your class as well as your family members and pets?
- 🐾 Was there a time when you were treated unkindly and without respect? What happened? How did you feel?
- 🐾 Was there a time that you saw another person or animal treated unkindly and without respect? What happened? How did you feel? What would you have done differently?
- 🐾 Was there a time when you treated another person or animal unkindly and without respect? Why did you do it? How do you think the person or animal felt? What could you have done differently?
- 🐾 Discuss the "Golden Rule," which is "Treat others the way you would want to be treated."

Procedure

After the discussion, students can make a banner that spells out "Always Use the Golden Rule," or something similar that you choose. Have the students decorate the banner with pictures of people and animals being treated with kindness and respect. Hang the banner in a visible place in the classroom. Pass out the two worksheets. Have the students do the first one, "Choose an animal you like/Choose a person you admire," and discuss it. Discuss the second worksheet, "This week I was kind...." It can be done once a week, at the end of the week or during a "sharing" time. Show the last section of the video, "Share the World." The video is divided into four parts: 1) The Amazing World of Animals 2) Animals and their Feelings 3) Changing Times, Changing Minds 4) Making Humane Choices. Part four discusses the "Golden Rule" and how to treat people and animals with respect and kindness. This video is free to educators. Send your request to Lifetime Learning Systems: P.O. Box 120023, Stamford, CT 06912-0023.

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 How will you use the "Golden Rule" at school and at home?
- 🐾 Where are other places that you can use it?
- 🐾 Ask the students for examples of people and animals that are treated poorly in their community. Why are they treated that way? How can that be changed?
- 🐾 Ask the students for examples of people or animals they think are weird, ugly, scary or different. Discuss why they feel this way and how they can get past these feelings by learning about the person or animal. For example, many people think rats are gross, dirty animals without any value. In fact, domesticated rats are very friendly, clean and smart and can be wonderful pets.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have each student write about an animal or person they think is strange, weird, scary or different. Ask them to include why they feel this way and whether what they think about this person or animal is true or not. They may need to go to the library or use the internet for more information.

Choose an Animal You Like

If I were an animal, I'd be a (an)

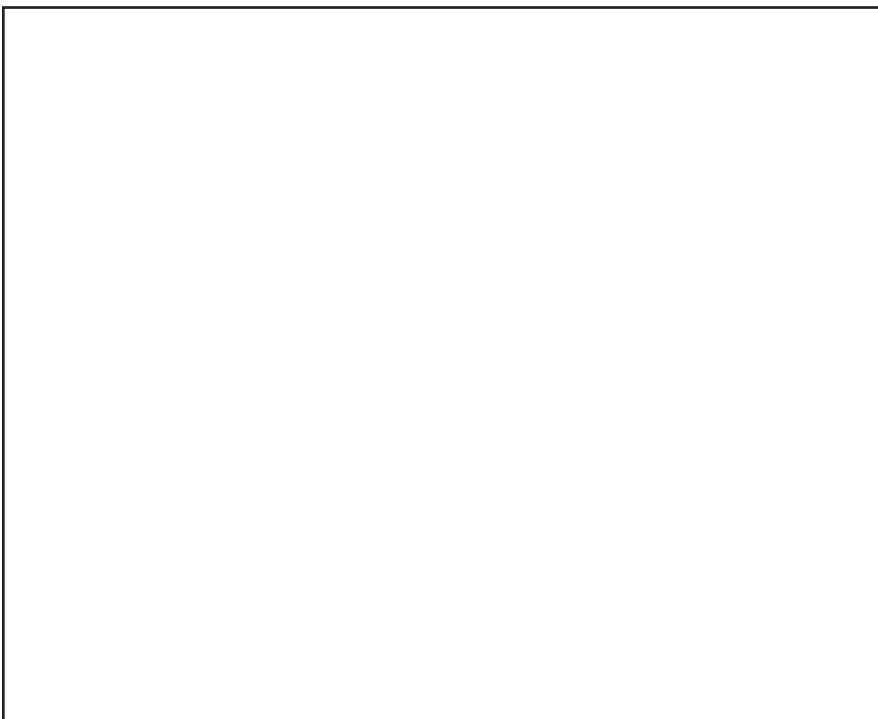
_____,
because I like these things about it:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of this animal:



Choose a Person You Admire

I admire _____,
because:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of this person doing something you admire:



