

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 have a clear understanding of **Promise 1**; Love.
- Children will empathise with an animal and their need for love and attention through their own experiences.

Resources:

- Dogs Trust Card Set
- Case Study – Pets and Halloween
- Dogs Trust 5 A Day Resource

Differentiation:

Children pictorially show how the dog felt each night or write adjectives to show how the dog felt each day e.g. happy, safe, loved, worried, scared, lonely.

Learning objectives:

- Children understand that animals feel many of the same emotions as humans.
- Children understand that an animal can 'react' or misbehave as a direct result of these emotions.
- Children understand their own responsibility in relation to caring for these particular needs.
- Children will relate these experiences back to **Promise 1**.

Extension Exercises:

English: Diary Entry

SPHE: Emotions

Assessment:

- Teacher questions/children's questions.
- Written Task

Learning activities:



5th/6th Class

Lesson Plan 2

Introduction

- Begin the lesson by reminding the children about the 5 Promises.
- Discuss the human need for love and attention; specifically, how it makes us feel to be loved.

Remind the class about Promise 1

Promise 1 - Love

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

Development

- Distribute the Card Set. Discuss the images; what is happening and why do they feel this is happening?
- Explain that animals react in different ways and that they cannot explain that they are frightened, lonely or hungry. (Consolidate this with the posters from 5 A Day – Tuesday)
- Read out a Case Study describing how, on Halloween Night, a dog was barking constantly and urinated in the house.
- Ask the class how they would react to this type of behaviour? Would they be angry with the dog? Why? Why not?
- Question the class on this behaviour: Was this normal for the dog? Why did the animal behave in this way?
- Explain that many things can affect the dog. The loud noises, strange visitors to the house and being unable to go out for their regular exercise could have contributed to this behaviour.

After discussing this Promise, instruct the class to write a Two Day Diary Entry on behalf of the dog. They should begin with October 30th (a normal day), describing how the dog feels loved and safe, also how they get lots of attention through play and exercise.

They will then compare this entry with the following night which would differ greatly. How does the animal feel now? What has changed?

Conclusion

- After the written task, the children can read out their work, giving reasons why the animal would feel these emotions. They can also try to explain or justify the behavior of the dog that night.
- Time permitting, they can describe a time when they felt frightened. It is probable that they were alone. Would they have felt the same if they had their parents with them? (Attention and Love).



Case Study: Pets and Halloween



5th/6th Class

Lesson Plan 2

Halloween can be terrifying for many pets and they end up getting into a very stressed state. Rita's 8 year old Jack Russell terrier Sparky has had a firework phobia since he was a puppy. He gets so distressed that one year he lost his voice after barking himself hoarse.



"Once when he heard a banger go off on the green outside he jumped over the garden fence and was hit by a car on the road outside." The vet was able to save him, and warned Rita to let people know the dangers for pets at Halloween. "She told me that dogs are very allergic to chocolate, it can be dangerous for them, so to be careful trick or treating. She said pumpkin is quite good for them though, if they don't eat too much". The vet said that "any small animals that normally live in a hutch or cage outside should be moved inside to a quiet space". "She said it was important that animals have a safe, comfortable place they can retreat to".

Rita has discovered that Sparky was most at ease when he spent Halloween night with her Gran's calm dog, Lulu, who helped to soothe him.

According to Rita, "when Sparky hears the fireworks, he starts to bark and you can tell he is really distressed, we've tried everything to help soothe him – we leave the radio and television on, we stay at home with him". She added, "sometimes when he hears fireworks and bangers he's so afraid that he goes to the toilet on the carpet".

