

Creating a Caring Class

Information adapted from the Humane Society of Missouri

Suggested Grade Level: 1-3

Character: Kindness

Relative Subject(s): Language Arts

Objective: To create a caring classroom environment, where students respect and care about each other, and the people and animals 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
- 🐾 "Choose an animal you like/Choose a person you admire" handout
- 🐾 "This week I was kind to people and animals by doing the following things..."
- 🐾 Situation cards

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 animals? 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 our 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 animals 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. Have the students complete, "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.

Divide the students into four groups. Each group should receive a card with a situation on it, read over their situation and decide if the choice that has been made is positive or negative and why. If the situation is negative, the group should decide how they would change it to make it positive. Each group should choose one person to write their answer. After each group has finished, one person from each group should read their situation to the rest of the class and talk about whether the situation was positive or negative. If the situation was negative, they should explain how they changed it to make it positive.

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.

Choose an Animal You Like

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

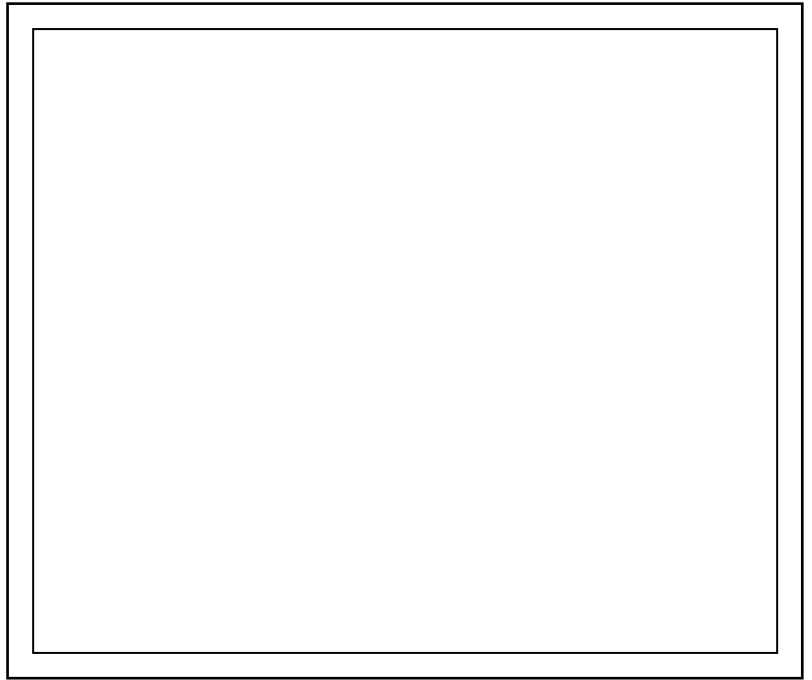
_____ because I like these things about it:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of this animal:



Choose a Person You Admire

I admire

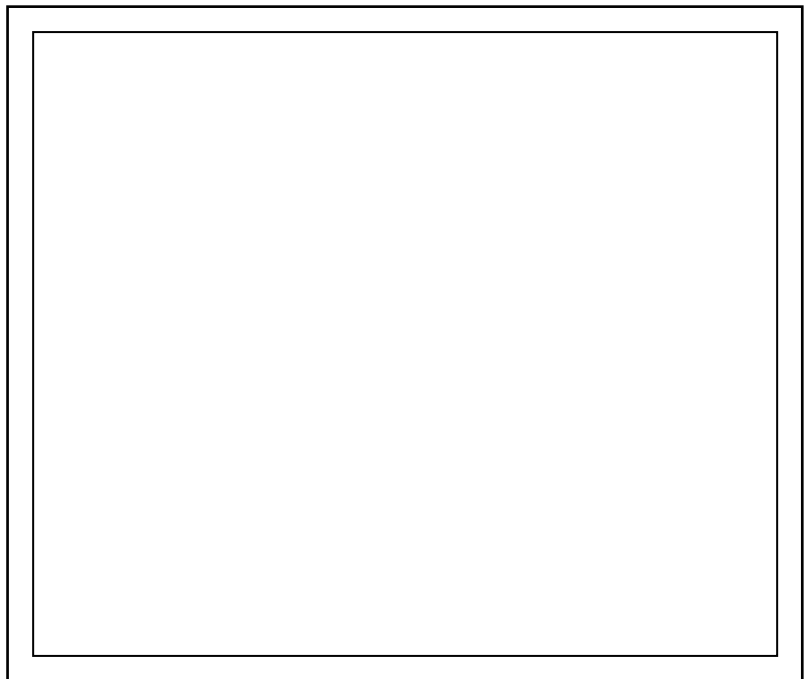
_____ because:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of this person doing something you admire:



This week, I was kind to people & animals by doing the following things:





Every day my family takes our dog for a walk.



Two girls were making fun of another girl at school.



I saw some kids teasing and kicking a stray dog.



We take our cat to the vet for a check-up once a year.