

Pet Responsibility



Initiating Questions:

Ask the students how many of them have pets. Ask them if they are responsible for their pets. What are some of their responsibilities?

Materials:

Shoeboxes, magazines, scissors

Information to Share:

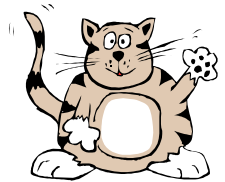
- ♥ Dogs and cats and other pets are not wild animals they are domesticated. They need human beings to care for them in order to survive.
- ♥ When you become a "pet parent" you become responsible for an animal's life. Remember dogs and cats cannot talk and tell you what they need so it is up to you to learn about their needs. What are some ways you can learn about what your pet needs? (books, magazines, internet, experts)
- ♥ **IMAGINE...**close your eyes and imagine that you are an animal and you're really hungry and really hot but you cannot talk to tell anybody. How would that make you feel?

Activity:

1. Give each child a shoebox, or have them bring one from home.

2. Tell them the shoebox is going to be their "Pet Parenting" box.
3. Tell students that you would like them to decorate the outside of the box representing the kind of pet they own or would like to have one day. Have them choose only one. They can make collage, use real photos, draw pictures or whatever they would like.
4. Inside the box, the students must either put in real items that their pet needs from them as good "pet parents" or they can cut out items from magazines (have these available.)
5. You may want to make this a homework assignment.
6. Have students present their box to the classroom and explain the items they packed.

Did you know...



- ♥ Every week at the Humane Society of Broward County more than 150 dogs and cats are turned in by their owners because they don't want them anymore!
- ♥ Many times these animals lose their home because somebody did not realize what a big responsibility it was to own a pet.
- ♥ The Humane Society doesn't want your pet to become one of the homeless. Please take responsibility for your pet for their entire life.

Mini Math Activity:

1. Divide the class into groups.
2. Assign a type of pet to each group.
3. Have the group figure out how much it would cost to care for this pet on a monthly basis.
4. Tell them to include everything they can think of that this particular pet would need (food, toys, collar/leashes, cages, medical care, grooming, etc.) let the kids come up with these ideas on their own.
5. Have them add up each item by estimating cost.
6. Have each group present their findings to the class.

