

Making Positive Choices

OBJECTIVE

To be able to look at a situation about people and animals and determine if the situation will affect them positively or negatively.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will divide into four groups and each group will receive a card that shows a situation with people and/or animals. Each group will work together to determine if the situation is positive or negative. If the situation is positive they'll explain why and if it's negative they'll describe how they'd change it.

MATERIALS

- 🐾 Situation cards cut out and laminated
- 🐾 Paper
- 🐾 Pencils

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 Think of a time when you did something that positively or negatively affected a person or animal. Give examples. If it was positive, how did you feel after you did it? How do you think the person or animal felt? If it was negative, why did you do it? How did you feel afterwards? How do you think the person or animal felt?
- 🐾 Think of a time when another person treated you positively or negatively. Give examples. How did you feel afterwards?
- 🐾 Discuss what "choices" are. What is a positive choice? What is a negative choice? Discuss that before you make a choice you should think about how your choice will affect people or animals. For example, if you see a dog that is hurt or lost there are positive choices that you can make to help it. What can you do? By telling an adult, like your parent or teacher, they can get help for the dog. If you ignore it, tease it or throw rocks at it, how will these negative choices affect the dog?
- 🐾 Discuss the "Golden Rule:" Treat others the way that you would want to be treated.

Procedure

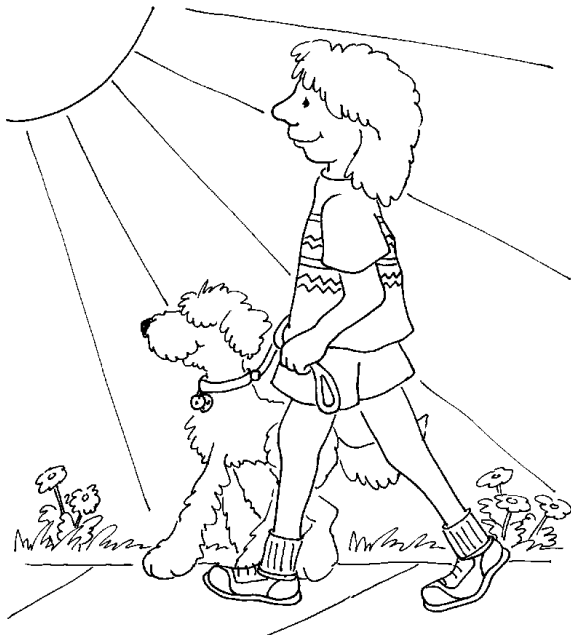
Divide the students into four groups. Assign a parent, volunteer or assistant to help each group. Each group should receive a card with a situation on it, read over their situation and decide if the choice that has been made is positive or negative and why. If the situation is negative, the group should 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 did each group come to their conclusion? Have any of the groups ever experienced any of these situations?
- 🐾 How can the "Golden Rule" help you make positive choices?
- 🐾 Have each student describe one way they would change how they treat people and/or animals.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students come up with their own situations and ask the class to decide if the choices made were positive or negative.



Every day my family takes our dog for a walk.



I saw some kids teasing and kicking a stray dog.



Two girls were making fun of another girl at school.



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