

A dog is my friend



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AGE	3 – 6 years
VALUE	Responsibility
MATERIALS	A printed action table
DURATION	30 minutes
GROUP SIZE	5 to 20 children
OBJECTIVES	Point out the actions that describe the term <i>responsibility</i> .
METHODOLOGY	Dialogue, discussion, game
AUTHOR	PRSC



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STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION

Responsibility is developed step by step. According to psychologists, it is very important for a child to realize responsibility because it means the perception of the inner-self, children own feelings and the ability to solve the smaller or bigger worries that we all have. In addition, even after learning to be responsible as a child, a person will correctly perceive responsibility like the freedom to act and make decisions independently, and not as an unwanted burden.

Responsibility needs to be developed at an early age. The first steps in developing responsibility could be watering a houseplant or caring for a pet. When a child is small, he or she should share responsibility for caring for the plant or pet with other family members.

Step 1

The facilitator asks the children to sit in a circle and raise a hand when they want to answer the questions.

Ask children the following questions:

Who has plants or pets at home? What are they?

Who doesn't have, but would like to?

Why do parents not want to buy a pet?

If children already have a pet, then ask, who is taking care of it? How do they do it?

When a child wants to keep a pet (a puppy, a cat, a hamster, a parrot) at home and begs the parents to buy it, who has to take responsibility for their future pet? Children or parents?

If the children answer that their parents take care of the pets, then the children are asked if they can take care of the animals themselves.

What do children have to do while keeping a pet at home?

The facilitator explains to the children that they can also help take care of the pets and share the responsibility for the pet with the parents.



Step 2

The facilitator divides the children into „The Firsts“, „The Seconds“ and „The Thirds.“ All the named groups gather together in different spaces. Children are given cards with pictures and it is explained to them that they have to put the pictures in order according to their opinion (consulting each other). They have to decide on what the daily routine looks like once you have a pet. If the children think that they alone cannot take full responsibility for a puppy (for example, take it out for a walk), they must put a JOKER card next to the walk with a puppy card. The JOKER card means that children must consult with other family members and share responsibilities.

The facilitator emphasizes that all the children in the group are responsible for completing the task, so they need to discuss which card to put.

Step 3

When the children lay out the pictures, compare the work of the teams and discuss the differences of completed task. The facilitator asks:

Was it difficult for the group to agree on the order in which the cards should be laid out and when to put the JOKER card?

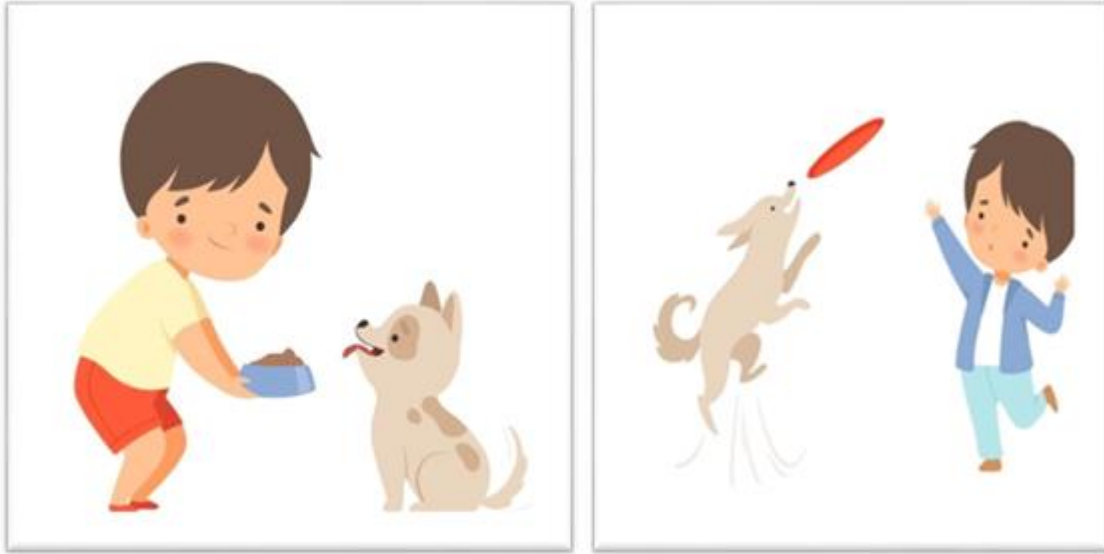
Did all the children in the group express their opinions and take responsibility for the task?

How do you think, is it possible to agree in the family to share the responsibility for feeding a puppy (or other pet) and taking it for a walk, combing and bathing?



Action Table





Joker Card



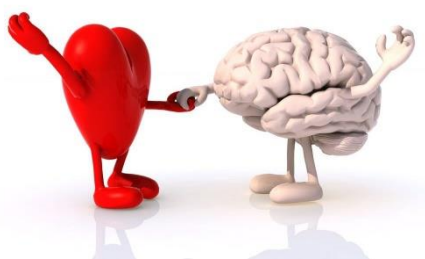
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CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

OBSERVED BEHAVIOR	YES	NO	COMENTS
The children understood the responsibility for a team member.			
The children understand what responsibility is.			
The children understood the responsibility for the team as a whole unit			
Children still need some help in understanding the meaning of responsibility.			
The children didn't understand the importance of responsibility while playing in a team			

To reach peace, teach peace. Pope John Paul II



Self-care Hints for Childcare professionals and teachers:

Remind yourself you're not your thoughts. Whenever a negative thought occurs in your mind, simply identify it as a "thought" or "feeling" and move on. You're not scorn or regret, and you're not self-doubt or anger. You're separate from your thoughts and they're separate from you, so why dwell on them?