

Welcome Home, Rabbit!

By Elaine Schmid

GRADE: PreK-2nd

TIME: 45 minutes- 1 hour

GOALS:

Promote good character by teaching compassionate and caring attitudes towards rabbits. Prepare the students for the arrival of their new classroom rabbit.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will recognize what rabbits need to be happy and healthy. Students will relate these needs to their own needs.

Students will be able to describe in words or in picture how to care for a pet rabbit.

Students will be able to physically see, touch, and use some of the necessary rabbit care supplies.

CHARACTER COUNTS:

Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Caring

SUBJECTS:

Humanities, Science

MATERIALS:

Rabbit care items (hay, food pellets, nail trimmers, clicker, water bottle, clean litter, litter pan, wood chewing toys, cage/hutch or fence) *Prior to the beginning of the lesson, put all of these items in a bag or box so that the children cannot see them.*

Paper

Drawing supplies (crayons, markers, pencils)

This lesson is most ideal prior to getting your classroom rabbit, as an introduction of how to care for a rabbit. It would also be useful in the early days of having a rabbit in the classroom or as a review lesson later.

LESSON SEQUENCE:

1. As you know, our classroom rabbit will be joining us soon! Today we will be talking about what rabbits need to live happy and healthy lives, and we will also be discussing how those needs are similar to your needs, as kids.
2. Give students turns to come to the front of the classroom and blindly get one of the items out of a large bag or box. Students will try to tell the rest of the class what the item is and what it is used for. The teacher will elaborate on each item and ask questions of the children about how this relates to one of their needs, as kids. Continue until all the items have been found.

3. As the items are taken out of the bag or box, if the rabbit's cage, hutch, or enclosure is in the classroom already, put the items directly into the rabbit's enclosure in the way that they would be set up for the rabbit. If the enclosure is not yet in the classroom, display the items neatly in a space all the children can see.
4. Once the items have all been found, give a quick review of each item, asking the children what each item is called and what the purpose of each item is. You could also ask them or show them how each item is used.
5. Then, cover up the items, pass out drawing supplies, and ask the children to draw a picture including as many things as they can remember that a rabbit needs to be happy and healthy in their classroom. Have the children put their names on their drawings, and these can be used as an evaluation tool. This step could be completed the next day, as well.
6. If you already have your classroom rabbit or your students have already seen the rabbit (or a photo of the rabbit), a nice closing to this lesson is to have your students give suggestions for the rabbit's name. You could make a list on the board and work on narrowing it down or voting on names.