



Plenty of Pets

Learning Links—Spring, 2016



Helping Our Children Learn about Differences

Child's Perspective:

I'm learning about the similarities and differences in the people around me. Help me appreciate all kinds of people.

Parent Learning:

Parents support their children's development when they teach their children appreciation and acceptance of all people and cultures.

Minnesota Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework, 2011

Songs

"If I Were"

If I were a dog
I'd have 4 legs to run and play.
If I were a fish
I'd have fins to swim all day.
If I were a bird
I could spread my wings out wide.
And fly all over the countryside.
But I'm just me.
I have 2 legs, don't you see?
And I'm just as happy as can be!

Three Little Puppy Dogs

One little, two little,
Three little puppy dogs.
One little, two little,
Three little puppy dogs.
One little, two little,
Three little puppy dogs.
(Bark) like this all day!
(play, eat, sleep, etc)

What We Did at School

Books

I Love Dogs
What Puppies Teach Us
Five Little Puppies

Art

Fingerpainting
Easel: Rainbow crayons

Fine Motor Activities

- * Activity table: Play doh and pet shaped cutters
- * Sensory table: Pet bed shavings & eggs
- * Writing table: Pay print & bone stamps
- * Pet Puzzles
- * Rabbit Stackers
- * Magnetic house puzzle

Math & Science Activities

- * Alpha Pets Game
- * Feed the puppy a bone
- * Sink or float?

This Week's Nursery Rhyme

Three little kittens,
They lost their mittens,
And they began to cry,
Oh, mother, dear,
We sadly fear,
Our mittens we have lost.
Oh dear, don't fear
Come in and have some pie.



What do children notice about other people?

Infants:

Recognize familiar and different facial features

2-year-olds:

Recognize familiar and different facial features
Categorize people according to people already know
Show interest through touch
Open to understanding differences



3-year-olds:

Questions about differences between people
Questions about whether differences are constant (can that color be washed off?)
Begin to construct own ideas about why people are different—these ideas are often not accurate

4-year olds:

Aware of society's names for groups
Alert to stereotypes
May create "stereotypes" to categorize people in way that makes sense to them
Place self within categories
Recognize differences beyond color of skin, i.e. way act, speak, dress
May use hurtful words have learned to exclude others

5-year-olds:

May use different characteristics to segregate groups
May reject others based on categories
Increasing interest in differences and ready to begin learning about cultural characteristics
Increasing ability to challenge stereotypes

Children's Diversity Pledge

I believe that all kids are different and special in their own way;
I believe all kids deserve to be loved, accepted, and respected for who they are;
I will work on being a good friend so that all children feel welcome around me and my family;
I will not judge people because of where they live, the color of their skin, their abilities, their spiritual beliefs, or whether they are a girl or a boy;
I can and will find the good in all people;
I will not tell or listen to jokes that make fun of other people;
I will be a peacemaker in my family and in my school;
I will show pride in my family and heritage;
I will learn as much as I can about my family traditions and the traditions of other kids in my school;
I will try new things and think about new ideas because it helps me be a better person.

-Cultural Exchange Corporation

*He prayed—it wasn't my religion.
She ate—it wasn't what I ate.
He spoke—it wasn't my language.
She dressed—it wasn't what I wore.
He took my hand—it wasn't the color of mine.*

*But when she laughed, it was how I laughed.
And when he cried, it was how I cried.*

-Amy Maddox, age 16