

Ginger Activity – Perceptions Discussion

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

- ! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values
- ! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control
- ! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-taking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity
- ! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building
- ! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To encourage students to look inward and visit their perceptions about people and animals.

PREPARATION: Children will meet Pawfessor Ginger and learn about how she doesn't judge anyone for who they are or what they have done and how she is a good friend and ally to all, yet she is judged by some people because she is a Pit Bull.

IMPLEMENTATION: Discussion Prompt:

PAWFESSOR GINGER is an incredible model for friendship and kindness. She accepts others for who they are and is incredibly tolerant of their quirks and limitations. GINGER has been the test dog to evaluate numerous rescue dogs—from nervous to shy or scared, she has helped so many homeless dogs on their journey to find a forever home. Even though GINGER makes the world a better place, she has still been discriminated against because of her looks and breed. Although there are many people who love Pit Bulls, there are still many who believe the hype. Some people cross the street when they see GINGER coming, some landlords would not allow her to live in their apartments or houses, and even whole cities (like Denver CO) have laws stating it is illegal for her to live or even visit in their city. THEY DO THIS BECAUSE OF PRECONCEIVED PERCEPTIONS. They pre-judge her based on how she looks, based on her breed. This is so unfair and GINGER and others deserve better. So today we are asking you to dig deep and visit your perceptions about people and animals. Do you have any thoughts or pre-judgment that you can rethink and open your mind to new possibilities? Can you break down any barriers that you have built? Every being is unique and deserves to be seen as an individual. Let's open our minds and hearts for GINGER and all the animals and people who deserve to be treated as the individual they are, not by the preconceptions folks might have.

Concepts: Building Character, understanding preconceived perceptions and pre judgement within us.

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