

Lucky Dog Humane Education

Activity – Getting to Know an Unfamiliar Classmate

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1, 2 & 3

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel compassion and empathy by asking them to get to know a classmate who they are unfamiliar with. To build mutual respect in the classroom and increase inclusion of others.

PREPARATION: Students will meet PAWfessors Lalo and Lyla and learn about immigrating to America and hear their dad Alan's story of making new friends when he didn't speak the same language. Alan will tell about how he felt when kids made the effort to include him and get to know him.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After participating in the Inclusion and Diversity lesson and story, the classroom teacher will lead a discussion on reasons to celebrate diversity, why it is important for "me to be ME and you to be YOU". The teacher will read the book All Kinds of Children - by Norma Simon, then facilitate a team building "unity circle" to get to know something new about each other. The teacher will then assign pairs of students who are unfamiliar with one another and give them time and space to interview each other. (See sample interview questionnaire in resources) They will then be assigned the following tasks: 1. Planning an activity the partners would enjoy doing together 2. Planning an act of kindness to do together 3. Figuring out the pet that would best fit their partners personality and lifestyle

Materials:

Paper, Pens, "Getting to Know You" questionnaire.

Concepts: Teaching acceptance of diversity, inclusion, empathy and compassion. Teaching the importance of being kind.

CONCLUSION: Have pairs take turns telling the class something positive they discovered about their partner and reporting on their 3 assigned tasks.