



The Breed Bag Activity

Jeanette Wood

Duration (45 minutes)

Core Competencies Targeted:	Respect Awareness Tolerance	
Objective:	Develop awareness that even when dogs (or people) are different, they are all special in their own way. Understand why it is important to respect and tolerate differences.	
Materials:	5-10 Small plush puppies (Beanie Babies) of different breeds. A book about Dog Breeds 2 pre-made balls of Air Dry Clay (in a Ziploc)	
	Activity:	Pull the different dogs out of the bag one at a time. Ask if they can identify the breed and what is good about that breed, i.e. a German Shepherd is a good police dog.
	Procedure/Discussion	After all the dogs are identified, ask the children which dog is the "best." After much deliberation, one child will usually say "they all are!" Discuss how differences are good, in dogs and in people. One child is good at math and another is good at basketball...etc.
	Dog Interaction Activity	Ask the children what is the same about them and the therapy dog...they have ears, noses, hearts, feelings, etc. This discussion can take place while the children are taking turns petting and brushing the dog. Show the dog's paw and ask them to compare it to their hand.
	Post-Discussion: Closure Activity	Using pre-made clay balls, make an impression of a child's hand and another with an impression of the dog's paw. Look for same/different in each impression.