



Family Relationships

Jeanette Wood

Duration (45 minutes)

<p>Core Competencies Targeted:</p>	<p>Empathy Affiliation</p>	
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>Help children understand that families come in many forms and do not always rely on "birth" relationships. Family is the group who loves you and takes care of you.</p>	
<p>Materials:</p>	<p>Photos of your dog growing as a puppy and growing up. It is ideal to make a story of your dog's life with photos. Photos of their birth parents, if you have them. Book: <i>Can I Be Good?</i></p>	
	<p>Activity:</p>	<p>Tell the story of how the dog came into your life, using photos of their past if possible. Try to find photos that children can relate to their own lives. For example, the puppy grew bigger and needed a bigger bed, just like them. Show the parent photos as well, if you have them.</p>
	<p>Procedure/Discussion</p>	<p>Where did he/she come from? Why couldn't they stay with his/her "real" mom and dad? Who takes care of them now? Will you ALWAYS take care of them? Talk about what the dog needs from his parent: food, walking, water, exercise, attention, training.</p>
	<p>Dog Interaction Activity</p>	<p>Let the children take turns "caring" for the dog. Let one walk her around the room, allow another to pour a drink of water, others can brush her, give her a command, such as sit and then a treat etc.</p>
	<p>Post-Discussion: Closure Activity</p>	<p>Discuss that even though you are not your dog's "real" mom or dad, you love them very much and will always take care of them. Read the book: <i>Can I be Good?</i> I give each of the children a stamp on their hand that says "Callie Loves Me."</p>