

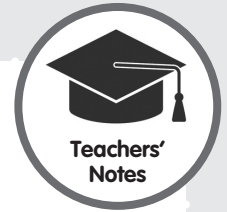


Duration: 60 minutes

Animal adoption role-play

PSHE, citizenship and English

Years 4 & 5



Objectives:

- To consider what makes a good home for a companion animal.
- To learn about the role of animal rescue centres.

Curriculum links:

CITIZENSHIP KS2: 1) a 2) a

PSHE KS2: L1, L7, L8, L10

ENGLISH: Spoken language years 1-6

Resources:

- Role-play character sheets
- Sticky (Post-it) notes

Animalkind film link - Section 3: We can all be Animal Kind

Starter activity:

- 1) If not already shown, play the *Animalkind* film section 3: We can all be Animal Kind.
 - Discuss why Phoebe and her mum went to Foal Farm to obtain a pet dog.
- 2) Ask the children what they know about the work of organisations like the RSPCA, Battersea Cats and Dogs Home or Cats Protection. Discuss the role of local rescue centres/sanctuaries and ask whether any of the children have visited them or adopted animals from them.
 - Discuss why many animals are abandoned and need to be taken in by sanctuaries such as Foal Farm.
 - Ask why it may be better to obtain pet animals from a sanctuary rather than a pet shop.
 - Discuss how much it costs in time and money to look after an animal properly. List the costs involved such as vet bills (vaccinations, neutering, etc.), food, toys, bedding, litter, pens, holiday accommodation, training classes (for a dog), carry basket (for a cat) etc.

Main activity:

- Divide the class into groups of five (or more if some 'pair-up').
- Provide each group with a set of character roles.
- The members of each group then divide the five roles amongst themselves:



Animalkind Lesson Plan 15

1. Sasha the dog
2. The Smith children
3. The managers at Foal Farm Animal Rescue Centre
4. The children's parents
5. Owners of a local pet shop

- Each group then acts out the role-play.
- Read out the scenario:

'The Smith children have been on a school trip to Foal Farm Animal Rescue Centre. They have seen an adorable young dog called Sasha. The children want their parents to agree to adopt her. However, this is a big step to take and there is a range of opinions to be taken into account.'

Sasha the dog, the children, the parents, the managers of Foal Farm, as well as owners of the pet shop down the road have different views. These will all be heard before a decision is made.'

- Explain that each person needs to imagine that they are the character(s) on their sheet. They should look at the case from their angle and use their arguments to persuade others, with a view to each group putting their case to the rest of the class.
- Allow 10 minutes, during which each character should think about and prepare their case or arguments; sticky notes can be used at this stage for writing down their main points.
- Each member then presents their side of the case to the other members of the group, who then ask them questions.
- Allow one minute for each to give their presentation and answer questions, then call for change over for the next character to give their presentation.
- After the five presentations, gather feedback from groups and discuss issues raised.
- Did they decide that Sasha should be adopted by the Smith family?

Plenary:

- Discuss the things that an animal rescue centre such as Foal Farm needs to consider when rehoming other types of animals such as cats, rabbits or hamsters.
- Discuss what people can do to persuade people not to buy animals that they can't care for properly, and to convince people who are looking for a pet to get their animal from a rescue centre rather than a pet shop or breeder.

Optional lesson development:

- 1) Produce a leaflet or poster on animal adoption on behalf of an organisation like Foal Farm, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home or the RSPCA.
- 2) Work out the cost of taking care of a dog for life (including vets' bills, food, equipment).

Resources
available on the
Animalkind
website

- **Role-play character sheets**
(one per group)





Role-play character sheets (p1)

Sasha the dog

You are Sasha, a 3-year-old mixed-breed dog who has been taken in by Foal Farm Rescue Centre. You ended up at the centre because your previous owners could not afford to look after you. It's all right at the centre but you miss being part of a family. Explain to everyone what you want for the future and what you expect from a new family.

The children

You are the Smith children. You have always wanted a dog. You have been on a school trip to Foal Farm Rescue Centre and have seen Sasha, a dog who lives there. You think she looks adorable. Put across your argument for adopting her. Try to convince everyone that you can care for her properly.

Foal Farm Rescue Centre managers

You are managers of Foal Farm Rescue Centre. You care for a lot of pet animals like dogs, cats, rabbits and rats. They have been taken in because people are not able to look after them. Explain why you think it's better to adopt a dog rather than buy one from a pet shop or breeder. Also explain that Sasha could live for a long time. Describe the care she will need if the family adopt her.



Role-play character sheets (p2)

The Smith parents

You are the parents of the children. You do love dogs but you are very busy and are not sure whether the family will have enough time to look after Sasha. You're worried about the mess she might make and that you'll have to pay for her food and vet bills. Explain your feelings. There are lots of questions to be considered such as who is going to look after the dog if you go on holiday abroad and who is going to take her for walks every day.

The pet shop owner

You own the pet shop in the village where the Smith family lives. You make money from selling all kinds of animals. You can make a lot of profit from selling a dog. If the family adopt Sasha, they will not buy a puppy from you. Put the case for buying from you instead of adopting.

Point out that you can give them a good deal, selling them all the things they will need such as a dog bed, toys, food, grooming brushes, lead and collar, etc. at a discounted rate.