



Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Define caring.
- Identify ways to help others.

Time Needed

20–45 minutes

Materials

- Pictures of the living beings and natural environment that you care about
- Yarn
- Picture of cat at an adoption center

Insider Tips

- If you have more time, you can ask the students to share with the whole class how they helped, or want to help, the individuals or places they care about.
- Given the young age of these children, avoid discussing the topic of euthanasia of homeless animals.

Classroom Teachers

- As an extension activity, have students draw who or what they care about and make a Circle of Caring poster.

Outside Humane Educators

- Be prepared to share some examples of what students could do in the future to help the people, animals or places they care about.

Activity 1: Circle of Caring

Overview: Students will think about the people, animals, and places they care about as well as ways in which they have helped care for them in the past or could care for them in the future. They will also learn that we do not have to know individuals personally to care about them.

Procedure:

Introduction

Introduce the topic of the activity by asking students what it means to care for others. Let them know that we can care for people, animals, and the planet.

Getting Started

1. First start by sharing pictures of a person, animal, and part of nature that you care about and let the students know why you care about them.
2. Show a picture of a cat at an adoption center. Let the students know that the cat is waiting for his/her forever home. Ask them how they feel about the cat. Allow students to respond.

Note: We care about this cat and we want her/him to find a home even though we do not know her/him. Take home point: we do not have to know individuals personally to care about them.

Circle of Caring

1. Ask the students to think about a person, animal, or part of nature that they care about and have helped in the past. If they have trouble thinking of something, ask them to identify some people they care about and how they would help them in the future.
2. Then ask them to share with a partner who or what they helped. For example, playing with their dogs or cats, helping their parents around the house, or protecting the ocean by picking up litter.
3. Ask the students to stand in a circle and to share who they care about and then give them a piece of yarn to hold on to and ask them to pass it to the next person to share.

Wrap Up:

Let them know that they are all connected because of their caring for others.