



Nancy Walkup

Drawing Miss Daisy: The Healing Empathy of Animals

Grade Level: Early Childhood / Elementary

By drawing a school service animal from direct observation, students will hone their skills in close looking while exploring empathy and feelings in relation to the service dogs.

Essential Question

How can art be used to help develop healthy relationships?

Themes

- Empathy
- Friendship
- Feelings

Objectives

- Draw an animal from direct observation.

Vocabulary

- Texture
- Multidirectional

National Standards

- VA: Cr.3.1PKa
- VA: Re.7.2.Ka
- VA: Cn.10.1.Pka
- VA: Cn.10.1.Ka
- NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standard: 2B.5

Materials

- A child-friendly animal to draw, such as a class pet or therapy animal
- 9"x 12" (23 x 30 cm) black, white, or colored drawing paper (depending on the color of the subject)
- Crayons or oil pastels in the colors of the subject
- Clipboards or drawing boards

Pacing

- Teacher Preparation Time: 30 mins
- Demonstration Time: 10 mins
- Student Work Time:

Procedure

Prepare

1. Gather/ organize materials and prepare clip boards with black paper
2. Ask students to describe why Daisy and Rosie were at their school and to share their interactions with the dogs.

Teach

1. Discuss the concept of empathy and friendship. Ask the students to describe how they feel when they interact with Daisy and Rosie.
2. Ask students to look closely at the dog(s), prompt students to describe their fur.
3. Prompt students to draw the dog(s), observing details and documenting them in their drawing.
4. While working, ask the students what else they notice—how the fur changes on different parts of the body, if they are wearing a collar, therapy vest, leash, etc. Ask students to describe the different textures of these objects.

Assess

- Did students incorporate texture in their drawings?
- Did students add details such as teeth, collar, leash, etc.?
- Did students verbally communicate their feelings about the dog(s)?

Close

- Near the end of the class period, ask students to share their drawings of the dog(s) and share what their experience was like drawing the dog(s) vs interacting with them as friends.

Resources

www.therapydogsunited.org

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