



Where help becomes hope.

## I Can Make a Difference!

**Suggested Grade Levels:** K-3

**Subject:** Language Arts

**Character:** Respect – Safety around Wildlife

**Materials and technology to be used:**

- "Situation Cards" – **x1 card for each small group**
- Writing paper with room for pictures – **x1 for each small group**
- Crayons – **x enough for each student**
- Pencils - **x1 per student**
- Poster paper – **x3**
- Notebook paper – **x1 per student**
- Sticky notes or other "exit ticket" – **x1 per student**

**Objective(s):**

To empower students to realize that they can make a difference in the life of an animal or another person. Students will also gain knowledge on how to solve problems appropriately.

**Anticipatory Set/Hook:**

Have students sit in a circle somewhere on the floor of the classroom – creating more of a community atmosphere. Tell students that today they are going to explore different scenarios and learn about how to make a difference in the lives of animals and other people.

**Lesson Beginning:**

1. Write the questions below on the board in different sections and cover each section of questions with a poster paper. Uncover each section as students are ready for those questions.
2. Discuss the following questions (utilize a variety of engagement strategies such as Turn and Talk, Stand Up/Hand Up/Pair Up, Think/Ink/Pair/Share, Inside-Outside Circle, Partner Pyramids, etc..... If you are unaware of how to execute any of these strategies, a simple 'Google' search will bring up numerous tutorials):
  - Think of a time when you knew that a person needed help. What kind of help did they need? Think of a time when you helped a person. How and why did you help that person? How did you feel afterwards? How do you think that person felt?
  - Think of a time when you knew that an animal needed help. What kind of help did

they need? Think of a time when you helped an animal. How and why did you help that animal? How did you feel afterwards? How do you think the animal felt?  
*Discuss that children should never go near an animal they do not know but should ask an adult to help the animal.*

- Think of a time when someone helped you. Why do you think they wanted to help you? How did you feel afterwards? How do you think they felt?
3. Bring students back together as a whole group. Tell students that sometimes we can get frustrated and may not want to help someone else out, instead, we may start to argue or get upset.
    - Ask: What is the best way to solve a problem? Discuss how to solve your problems without hurting others in the process.
  4. Explain to students that we all share this same world – all humans, animals, and plants, and we must help each other out, not argue, in order to take good care of our planet so that it is healthy and can continue to support us.
  5. Invite a Humane Educator from the Nebraska Humane Society out to your classroom to share various shelter animals' stories. Their stories will help illustrate the importance of being kind. NHS presentations provide students with real life examples on how other people have made a difference in the lives of animals in need. Contact the **NHS Education Department** at **402.444.7800 ext 2214** to schedule a presentation.

#### **Middle of Lesson:**

1. Split students up into multiple groups of 2-4 people.
2. Assign a "Recorder" and a "Reporter" in each group who will have special jobs. The "Recorder" will take notes on the group's discussion, and the "Reporter" will share their groups' ideas out loud with the whole class.
  - You may wish to skip this step with younger students.
3. Read each situation card out loud to the class. Provide each group of students with one card. Have each group of students read and discuss the situation that they received and how they would help that person or animal. Make sure the "Recorder" is doing their job and that the "Reporter" knows what they are going to say to the rest of the class.
4. Encourage groups to take notes and draw pictures to support their solution(s).

5. After each group has written down their solutions, have each group take a turn coming up to the front of the room and the "Reporter" can share their groups' solutions and any other notes out loud.

**End of Lesson:**

1. Compare the different opinions and discuss that there are many ways to solve a problem.
2. Ask: "Whom can you talk to if you do not know how to solve a problem?" *An adult.*
3. Reiterate that it is *crucial* for people to work together to solve problems and help each other.
4. Have students write about another time that they were faced with a problem and solved it in an appropriate manner.

**Closure:**

Provide students with 1 minute to reflect on what they have learned today. Ask them to verbally or in writing, give you 2 new things that they learned or found interesting about helping each other, animals, and/or solving problems. Have them write their take-aways on a sticky note or some sort of "exit ticket" before moving on to the next lesson.



**A girl at school told me that she was hurting her Guinea pig.**



**My brother was making fun of someone in school.**



**My friend was not being safe and fell off his bike. He scraped his arms and legs.**



**I saw a cat that looked like it was hurt.**