



Educate Together

Lesson 6

To be themselves



Class Level
3rd/4th Class

Curriculum Links	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living Things	Plant & Animal Life
English	Oral Language; Writing	Developing cognitive abilities through language
SPHE	1. Myself 2. Myself & the Wider World	1. Growing & Changing; Making Decisions 2. Developing Citizenship
Learn Together (Educate Together Schools)	1. Moral & Spiritual 2. Equality & Justice	1. Exploring Moral Development Cultivating Spiritual Growth 2. Activating Equality & Justice through positive Action

Content objectives:

- Children understand the responsibilities involved in owning a pet.
- Children understand how they can have an active role in promoting **Promise 5**.

Resources:

Pictures of Lucas and Lucas's story – ispca.ie

Poem: Promise 5- To be themselves

*I promise to give my pet a life that he will enjoy
 I promise to treat him when he's been a good boy
 I promise his life will be a walk in the park
 I promise to let him play, chew, sniff and for dogs,
 even bark
 I promise to love him for the long run
 I promise to let him have some fun!*

Learning objectives:

- Children learn that it is their responsibility, as a good pet owner, to provide their pet with a life that he/she will enjoy.
- Children listen to the story of Lucas and are able to empathise with his situation.
- Children use learning from previous lessons to determine what would be a suitable home for Lucas.

Extension Exercises:

Debate "Are circus animals given the chance to express normal behaviour?"

Differentiation:

Follow up research on the ISPCA, Dogs Trust, www.lovemypet.ie

Assessment:

Teacher questions/children's questions.



Learning activities:



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Introduction

- Remind the children of **Promise 5**; to provide my pet with a life that he will enjoy.
- Ask the children what things they need to do to ensure that their pets have a life they enjoy.
- What does “normal behaviour mean”? How we can ensure that our animals can express normal behaviour?

Development

- Ask the children what their “normal behaviour” is when they go home from school. Do they play with their friends in the park? Ride their bikes? Play football?
- Ask the children how they would feel if they were not allowed to go outside to play or if they had to play in a small space all day.
- Remind the children again that just like us, animals have emotions and needs. Animals need company or they will become bored and lonely.
- Tell the children Lucas’s story;

Lucas is a young cat surrendered to an ISPCA inspector. Lucas was being kept in a small, dirty cage with a number of other cats. Their constant crying and miaowing alerted neighbours and their plight was reported to the National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515.

An ISPCA inspector called to the house and discovered that the owners were keeping the cats in the cage because they thought it kept them safe. But Lucas and his friends were not allowed to be themselves,

they could not behave as cats should. They were also fed an unsuitable diet including chips and their coats were filthy and were covered in fleas.

All the cats were surrendered to the ISPCA National Animal Centre where they have now been responsibly rehomed. Visit www.ispca.ie/rehoming to see the many cats and kittens looking for new homes.

Questions:

1. How did Lucas feel in the cage every day?
2. How do you think Lucas and the other cats felt?
3. Why do you think so?
4. Do you think the neighbour was right to ring the animal helpline?
5. What advice do you think the ISPCA Inspector gave Lucas’ owners when he called to their home?
6. Can you think of any reasons why Lucas’ owners wouldn’t take the advice of the Inspector?

Conclusion:

- Explain that the ISPCA will work very hard to find Lucas a good new home. They will interview prospective new owners and ask them several questions before they decide on the right home for Lucas.
- Children work in groups to draw up a list of questions the ISPCA would be likely to ask the prospective new owners. What kind of family and home would be suitable for Lucas?
- Activity: Make a poster of Lucas and all the things his new owners will need to keep him healthy and happy.



A New Year & a New Start for Lucas



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Lucas Before the ISPCA took him in

Lucas is a young cat surrendered to an ISPCA inspector. Lucas was being kept in a small, dirty cage with a number of other cats. Their constant crying and miaowing alerted neighbours and their plight was reported to the National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515.



Lucas after the ISPCA took him in

An ISPCA inspector called to the house and discovered that the owners were keeping the cats in the cage because they thought it kept them safe. But Lucas and his friends were not allowed to be themselves, they could not behave as cats should. They were also fed an unsuitable diet including chips and their coats were filthy and were covered in fleas.

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