

How to Use This Book

Have you ever wakened in the morning not feeling well? You have a terrible headache or the flu bug that has been going around has finally hit you. It's too late to find someone to take over your class so you HAVE to teach. Or perhaps you are pulled out of class for an unexpected meeting, assembly or conference. To temporarily fill in for you, where can you find simple lessons that are easy to use and take little or no preparation? You need activities that your students will enjoy working on while learning at the same time!

Welcome to *Emergency Lesson Plans*, a collection of educationally-based, cross-curricular activities that are ready to use for any emergency teaching situation. This unique selection of articles and non-fiction stories appropriate for specific grade levels can serve as a starting point for cross-curricular studies. They can also easily be added to existing classroom studies because of the wealth of subjects covered and their support of multiple National Education Standards.

It's always a good idea to have a backup plan, just in case the situation rises. Let these emergency lesson plans help you with those "I just can't teach right now" moments.

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Animals at Work

Some animals work every day helping people who are disabled. They offer them the fun of having a pet. They also help people be more independent. Two common animal helpers are monkeys and dogs.

Monkeys have been trained to serve as the hands for people who can't move. These monkeys can turn on light switches or hold books or magazines. They can also use special tools that help people feed themselves.



The monkeys are trained in a special program. They begin by living with a foster family for about five years. This helps them get used to being around people. Then they start “monkey college,” which lasts for 18 to 24 months. During this time, two monkeys share a room with a stereo system and a color television. This equipment helps the monkeys practice their tasks. The monkeys learn hundreds of command words. They also learn to follow the light of a laser beam. Their owners will use laser pointers to show the monkeys what they need.

The monkeys are carefully matched with the person they will help. The monkeys may live for 30 or 40 years. Some of the human-monkey teams have worked together for more than 20 years.

Dogs are often used to help visually impaired people. The guide dog movement began in the early 1900s. After World War I ended, the Germans trained dogs to help soldiers who had lost their sight. A magazine article about the guide dogs was published in the United States. Some people who were interested in training guide dogs then began a school.

Volunteers train and love puppies that will become guide dogs. Training for the job begins when the dogs are about 18 months old. It lasts for several months. The dog and its new owner then train together for a few more weeks.

Dogs learn several basic commands, such as right, left, and forward. Dogs are color blind; they can't see the colors of traffic lights. They judge whether it is safe to cross a street by the traffic flow.

Guide dogs usually work for seven or eight years before they "retire." They can then be kept as pets. Most guide dogs live to be 12 or 13 years old.

One estimate is that there are 10,000 guide dogs working in the United States. However, only about 2 percent of visually impaired people have guide dogs.

Maybe when you grow up you will train an animal to help others. It could be a very rewarding task. Imagine how proud you would be when your monkey or puppy graduates!





Understanding What You Read

Fill in the graphic organizer below with details from the article.

Animal Helpers

Monkeys	Guide Dogs
How they are trained:	How they are trained:
Who they help:	Who they help:
How they help:	How they help:



Vocabulary Builder

A prefix is a word part placed at the front of a word. If you know the meaning of a prefix, you can figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the prefixes listed below and write the meaning on the line. Then give an example for each word.

1. un- _____
2. im- _____
3. in- _____
4. re- _____
5. dis- _____

