

Dog Body Language

Objective

Dog body language recognition
How do dogs use body language to communicate?
How can we tell what dogs are feeling?

Preparation

Read about dog body language and print out the coloring page via dog expert Sarah Wilson:
<https://sarahwilsondogexpert.com/dog-body-language-coloring-page-for-children/>

Materials

1. Dog body positions (provided via link above)
2. Paper
3. Something to write or draw with

Instructions

Ask students how a dog uses body language to communicate. Teach students a "play bow." Then, have students use their hands and bodies to make the movements of ears, tail and body in response to the emotions you describe (curious, happy, scared, sad, and tired).

For students in third and fourth grades, share the labeled illustrations of dog body language from the link below. Ask students what each behavior communicated. Provide handouts of the dog body language (several on one large sheet of paper). Have students draw pictures of what they imagine the dog is responding to. Encourage students to write a one-sentence description. Ask students to share what they have drawn and why.

At the end of the lesson

Ask students to reflect on one of these questions: "What surprised you most about this lesson?" "What would you like to learn more about?" You can do this with the whole group, in a sharing circle or related class meeting format, by having students fill out index cards or another format you choose. We recommend that you ask different questions and have a variety of formats for the different books. Consider adding additional activities or lessons based on what they say they'd like to learn more about. Please share student responses and stories about changes in attitude or behavior you observe by adding to your report about this reading or by emailing Readers@RedRover.org.