



{Toby and Tutter}



Therapy Dogs

GRADE 2 LESSON HELPING OTHERS

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Key Concepts/Big Ideas

- Toby and Tutter help children improve their skills. They are therapy dogs. Have you ever seen a therapy dog working? Why do you think therapy dogs are a useful tool in helping people? How can you help others? Give an example of a time you've helped someone recently.
- I can help others.

ELA Standard

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/2/1/>

Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

Objectives

Students will identify ways that Toby and Tutter help the children in occupational therapy as assessed by participation. Students will contribute to a class discussion about helping others as assessed by participation. Students will complete a creative poster including both illustrations and written descriptions identifying four ways they plan to help others this week.

Materials

- Toby and Tutter book
- Chart paper, markers, or interactive whiteboard
- Large construction paper, crayons, pencils, colored pencils, markers, etc. for poster-making

Hook

Teacher shows students pictures of Toby and Tutter in their human mom's therapy room.

Teacher: "Toby and Tutter help children meet their goals. Some children need help learning to walk, or learning to hold things, for example. Toby and Tutter are therapy dogs. How do you think they help children?" Provide wait time. Field student responses.

If allowed, show this 2:52 minute video from The Good Dog Foundation about how dogs help humans heal.

<https://youtu.be/Ovul70E0pBM>

Activity

Large Group: Discussion

Teacher: "So Toby and Tutter are dogs who help people. Who are some people you know who are helpers?"

Provide wait time. Field student responses. Teacher writes student responses on chart paper or interactive whiteboard. Examples include: teachers, nurses, doctors, therapists, occupational therapists like Toby and Tutter's mom, fire fighters, EMTs, garbage collectors, mail carriers, and more. Students can help illustrate the list at a later time, if teacher desires.



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Independent or Small Group

Students create posters highlighting four ways they will help others this week. Posters should contain illustrations and written descriptions of each task students plan to complete.

Closing/Evaluation

Teacher invites students back to large group meeting area. Students share their posters and describe how they are helpers! Posters can be displayed in the classroom or hallway to motivate students to be helpers.

Evaluation

Did student contribute to class discussions, identifying ways Toby and Tutter help others, as assessed by participation?
Yes or No

Did student complete a poster containing four illustrations with written explanations? Yes or No

Modifications/Accommodations

Teachers could work in small groups or 1:1 with students who need extra support writing words for the written portion of this lesson.

Homeschool Modifications

This lesson presents a wonderful opportunity for homeschoolers to go out into their community and learn about therapy dogs and other helpers in person. Contact an organization, below, and go visit a therapy dog; help arrange a therapy dog visit to a local library; visit a local fire station; plan a family/homeschool community service project to help others.

Extension Suggestion

This would be the perfect lesson to bring a therapy dog to school for a visit. Many libraries utilize therapy dogs on occasion, and could be a resource for finding someone able to bring a therapy dog for a visit!

The Good Dog Foundation is an excellent resource.

<http://thegooddogfoundation.org/>

The Alliance of Therapy Dogs is another great resource.

<https://www.therapydogs.com/>

Additional resources:

Petpartners.org

<https://www.petpartners.org/>

Therapy Dogs International

<https://www.tdi-dog.org/>

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

<https://www.aota.org/>

APPENDIX (PHOTOS)







