

# A.N.I.M.A.L



**Character Concepts Taught:** Responsibility and Caring

**Grade Level:** Any

**Prerequisite:** None

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Number of Participants:** All

**Number of Educators/Assistants:** 1

**Prep:** None

**Materials:**

- White board and markers

**Cognitive Objectives:** Students will learn that it is a privilege to work with animals. Students will understand how to act safely around animals.

**Affective Objectives:** Students will understand that animals can tell us how they are feeling through their body language allowing them to be confident in working with animals.

**Interpersonal/Social Objectives:** Students will understand the proper interactions necessary to safely work with and around animals.

**Perceptual Objectives:** Students will understand the content of the lesson through the A.N.I.M.A.L acronym.

**Procedure:**

Body:

1. Write the word ANIMAL vertically on the board (be sure to leave room to write after each letter).
2. Ask students if they know what an acronym is. (It's a word trick used to remember things. Each letter of the word ANIMAL is going to stand for a rule about working with the animals at the ARL.)
3. Explain what each letter stands for:
  - A: Ask permission- If you are respectful and listening, we will let you spend time with animals. It is important to ask the owner of any animal if you can pet them or approach them because you are unfamiliar with their personality.

- N: Notice what they're telling you- How do animals communicate with us what they want and what they feel? Through body language! (list off some common cat and dog body language)
  - Dogs wag their tails when they're happy
  - Dogs lay their ears back and tuck their tail when they are nervous or scared
  - Cats walk away when they need a break
  - Cats swish their tails when they are mad
  - Etc.
- I: Invite them to make choices- Let the animals choose what they want to do. Maybe they are shy and want to watch you for a little while before they play. Let them walk where they'd like without being chased.
- M: Make them feel safe and comfortable- Voices should be quiet. Bodies should be still and stay in one spot. We should never grab at them or chase them.
- A: Act calmly and move slowly- Rushing at animals can scare them! Relax and take a few deep breaths to make sure you are nice and calm. The calmer you are, the calmer the animal will feel, and the more likely they will make the choice to visit with you.
- L: Learn from them and teach others- Now that you know how to act safely around animals you can begin interacting with them. You can tell others all about the body language you observe and the cool things that animals can teach us!