



A Dog's Life

by Rose Lorenzo

Overview



For suggestions on using the Big Book, see the *Big Book Teacher's Guide*.

Print and Book Conventions

- Reading books from front to back, turning pages, and holding books upright
- Understanding that pictures in books tell stories and give information
- Reading the book together and then independently

Oral Language Development

- Listening to and answering questions
- Telling how dogs change
- Using action words
- Discussing how to care for pets
- Describing what is happening in each photograph

Content and Thinking Skills

- Understanding that animals change as they get older
- Understanding that pets have specific needs
- Understanding that having a pet requires responsibility
- Understanding that pet dogs are domesticated animals

Literacy Focus

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Discuss with children what the title *A Dog's Life* might mean. Ask them whether they have a dog and what things a dog needs. Ask them what they think they might read about in the book.

Pages 2-7

For each spread of pages, ask:

What are the dogs doing in these pictures?

What are the people doing?

Who is taking care of the dog?

How do the pictures show what dogs need?

Encourage children to think about the well-being of the dogs.

Is the dog happy?

Are the people taking care of the dog?

Page 8

Have children look at the photo. Ask:

Who is responsible for these puppies?

Are they being looked after?

What do these puppies need?

What do they need that older dogs do not need?

Encourage children to discuss how young animals are cared for and who takes cares of them.

Respond

- Ask children a question about each photo using an action verb. Have them respond orally using the same action verb. For example, *Who is washing the dog? The children are washing the dog.*
- Have children focus on counting and number words by telling how many dogs are in each photo. For example, *There are three puppies in this picture.*

Science Focus

Science Activities

- Ask children to recreate the illustrated activities. Have them cut out magazine pictures and add captions, for example, *playing, sleeping.*
- Ask children to act out the scenes from the book based on the action verbs. For example, have them pantomime sleeping or running.