All Creatures Big and Small

Body-size Diversity Activity

Objectives:
1. Explore the idea that animals come in a variety of shapes and sizes.
2. Learn about differences in abilities and food choices among animals.

Age:
6 to 12 years.

Length:
Approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

Supplies and Materials:
1. Pictures of various animals and some interesting facts about their size, shape, diet, abilities, and characteristics. (Samples are included. Can be used as mini-posters or as slides.)
2. Rope 50 feet in length. Mark with masking tape or yarn at 9 inches, 3 feet, 9 feet, 13 feet and 46 feet.

Activity Directions:
1. Show each animal picture and talk about each animal. Select notable items from the fact sheets. Have one participant hold the end of the rope. As you discuss each animal, have another participant hold the marked spot on the rope showing the size of the animal. Keep the discussions lively and introduce them in the following order:
   - mouse
   - pig
   - bear
   - elephant
   - whale

2. Throughout the discussions, emphasize the differences in sizes and diets. Also talk about the different abilities such as the strength of the bear and the swimming distances of the whale.
3. For each animal, have participants do a physical activity related to the facts they just learned about the animal. Some ideas include the following:
   - MOUSE – scurry to a hiding place to store your food
   - PIG – on your hands and knees, crawl around sniffing like a pig
   - BEAR – stand tall like a grizzly bear, run in place faster than a horse, and swim like an Olympian
   - ELEPHANT – walk around like an elephant, using your arms like a trunk, swing your trunk over your head, bend over and get a drink or pretend to dig
   - WHALE – dive to the bottom of the sea, swim on your side, gulp mud and swim back to the surface

4. After learning about the animals, relate acceptance of this diversity in the animal kingdom to acceptance of diversity in humans. A few discussion points include the following:
   - * animals have their own individual beauty
   - * we don’t judge animals based on an “ideal” that all animals must meet
   - * we respect and admire animals for their unique talents and abilities

**Take Home Tidbit**
Take home slip says the following:
   “Ask me what I learned about different animals, their sizes, and what they eat at the WIN Kids Fun Day.”

**Sources:**
Holmes, Betty. *Size It Up! - Animals come is a variety of sizes and shapes (and so do humans)*. Educational Program. Wellness IN the Rockies, University of Wyoming. 2003.


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