

# "Super Service Animals!"

# Objective:

Students will learn what service animals are, who they help, and how they assist people with disabilities in everyday life.

#### Time:

Approximately 30-45 minutes

### **Materials Needed:**

- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers/crayons
- Printed pictures of different service animals in action (dogs, miniature horses.)
- Drawing paper and art supplies
- Stuffed animals or puppets (optional for younger grades)

# **Activity Steps:**

1. Introduction: What's a Service Animal? (5–10 minutes)

Start with a conversation:

- "Have you ever seen a dog wearing a vest or harness in a store or airport?"
- "What do you think that dog is doing?"

#### Explain in simple terms:

- "A service animal is trained to help someone with a disability. They are not pets—they have an important job!"
- Share examples:
  - A guide dog helps someone who is blind.
  - A hearing dog alerts someone who is deaf to sounds in the environment.
  - A medical alert dog can sense seizures or low blood sugar.
  - A mobility dog helps someone who uses a wheelchair.

Show selected videos from All About Service Animals.

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## 2. "Can This Dog Help?" Sorting Game (10-15 minutes)

Make or print out a set of picture cards showing:

- Service animals in action (e.g., guiding someone, opening a door, retrieving an object for a person using a wheelchair)
- Regular pets doing pet things (e.g., playing fetch, sleeping on a couch)

Have students sort them into two groups: Service Animal vs Pet

#### Ask:

- "How can you tell the difference?"
- "Why do you think we shouldn't pet a service animal while it's working?"

Talk about **rules** for being around service animals:

- 1. Don't pet them without asking.
- 2. Don't distract them while they're working.
- 3. Be respectful to the person (handler) with the animal—they work as a team.

# 3. Design Your Own Super Service Animal! (10-15 minutes)

Give each child paper and crayons and ask them to:

- Draw their own service animal
- Give it a name
- Decide who the animal helps and what special tasks it does (realistic or imaginative!)

#### Encourage ideas like:

- "My service dog helps me stay calm at school."
- "My mini horse helps carry my books."
- "My super dog reminds me to take my medicine."

Let the kids share their animals with the class!

## 4. Wrap-Up Reflection (5 minutes)

Ask questions like:

"What was something new you learned about service animals?"



- "What should you do if you see a service animal in public?"
- "How do service animals help people live more independently?"

# **Optional Extension:**

• **Guest Speaker:** Invite someone who uses a service animal to speak to the class.



# **Service Animal Photos**















