

CULTIVATING COOPERATION – Introductory Lesson

The introductory lesson presented here may be used by educators who are using *Cats are Mutt-i-grees® 2* as a freestanding educational program. Educators who are using the *Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum* may refer to the lessons in the Curriculum binder and use the activities from *Cats are Mutt-i-grees® 2* to supplement the lessons.

LESSON	4.1 Feline Friends
Objective	Children will learn about the concepts of trust, respect, and friendship.
Rationale	Trust and respect are integral to healthy and supportive relationships; a more thorough understanding of these concepts will strengthen communication and relationship skills. This will also promote appreciation of diversity and enhance children’s ability to work effectively as a member of a group or team.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Makes a Good Friend? templates • Computers with Internet access
Key Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation • Friendship • Trust • Respect • Relationship • Mutual respect
Introduction	Trust and respect characterize good relationships whether with friends, family, teachers, or animals.
Discussion	<p>How would you define respect? How would you define trust? When we trust people, we believe in them; we expect them to look out for us, we count on them (depend), and we are confident they truly care about us. When we respect people, we think highly of them; we admire their skills or talents and value their opinion(s). When we say we treat people – or animals – with respect, what do we mean?</p> <p>Can you think of someone you trust? Do you also respect that person? Why? Often trust and respect go hand-in-hand; and sometimes the people we trust and respect the most are the ones we depend on for support and friendship.</p>



How do we show respect? What do you do to show respect to others and what can other people say or do to show their respect to you. People can show respect by the way they speak and behave – for example, saying please and thank you is respectful. Another example is listening when someone is speaking, it shows respect. Following rules is also a way to show respect for adults as well as our peers; staying out of your sister’s room when she is not home, or asking before taking something of your brother’s.

Discussion (cont'd)	<p>How might a cat act when it trusts you? How might a cat act when it doesn't trust you? What influences whether a cat trusts you?</p> <p>How you approach and treat a cat has a lot to do with whether it will trust and respect you. Do you think cats act differently around people who have a lot of experience with animals, such as veterinarians? People with a lot of experience know the characteristics of animals and are often very calm and respectful toward animals, and cats often sense and respond to this! For example, cats don't feel comfortable when someone is looming over them or staring at them. Those who know cats avoid this, and cats will generally go over and be friendly to those who don't look at them directly. This is known as mutual respect.</p>	
Learning by Doing	<p>Feline Friends: Friends come in all shapes and sizes and from all different places. Wherever they come from, a good friend is someone who knows you and supports you, someone you have fun with and often shares your interests. Having a friend means being a friend. Using the What Makes a Good Friend? templates, have students write about the qualities of friendship and create a paper feline friend.</p> <p>Example:</p>	
Closure	<p>Today we talked about trust and respect – these qualities are especially important for good relationships with people and animals.</p>	