



Animal Assisted Interventions & Humane Education

Connecting Language & Thought to Build Compassion in Learners

This webinar is made possible by a grant provided by The Irving and Phyllis Milstein Foundation for Animal Welfare®.

Developed in Partnership with Yale University School of the 21st Century



Feeling the Mutt-i-grees Impact



5,000

**Schools, Libraries, &
After-School Programs**

Reaching students to
enhance and motivate
learning



2,000

**Animal Shelters
Participating**

Animal shelters
participating in NSALA
programs



50

**States
Represented**

Enriching education
across the country and
in Canada



The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum Integrates Five Themes Fundamental to Social Emotional Learning



Achieving
Awareness



Finding
Feelings



Encouraging
Empathy



Cultivating
Cooperation



Dealing With
Decisions





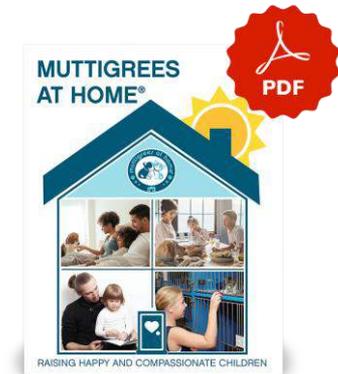
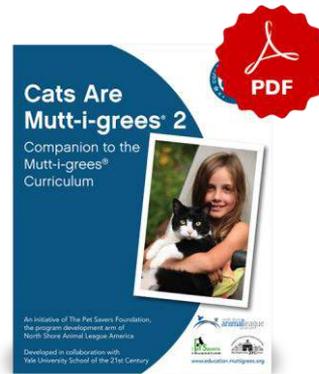
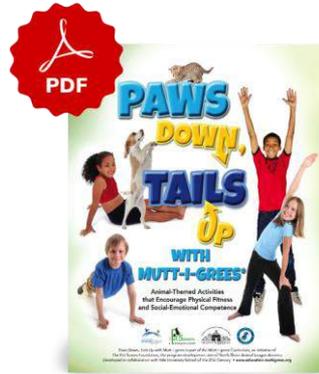
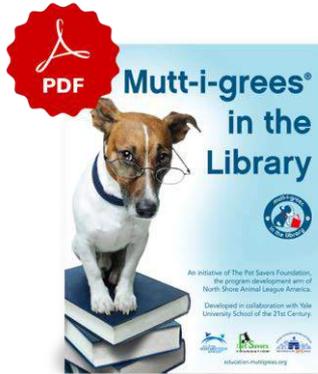
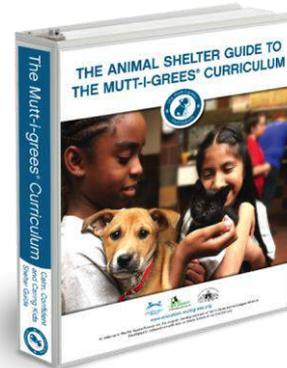
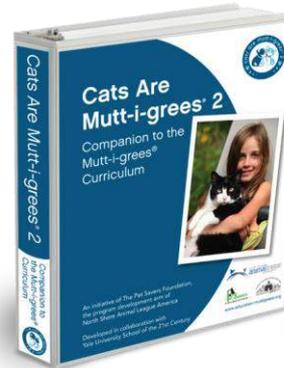
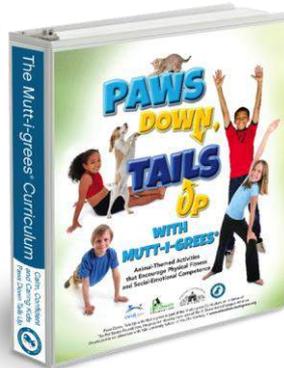
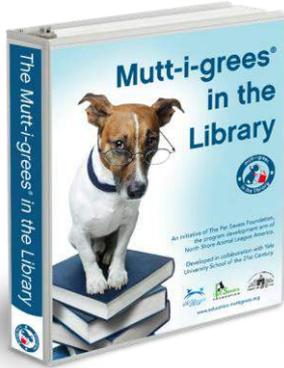
Mutt-i-grees Assets



In addition to our digital PreK-12 lessons, available at our website for free, we also offer live virtual programs.

Read Alouds where we read a book from the Mutt-i-grees Curriculum while asking questions that engage students to use critical thinking skills!

Virtual Tours of the Mutt-i-grees Adoption Center where we engage students with a behind the scenes look at the journey from rescue to adoption. Always bridging social emotional learning with humane education.





Our Guest Speakers

Kimberly Spanjol, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LMHC

Nancy Vidal-Finnerty, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Hosted By:

Jayne Vitale Director of Education and Youth Programs
Mutt-i-grees Curriculum

Humane Education for a More Compassionate World: Language and Cognitive Development to Expand Empathy Toward Non-Human Animals

by Dr. Kimberly Spanjol and Dr. Nancy Vidal-Finnerty



The Power of Thought and Language

*Watch your thoughts;
They become words.
Watch your words;
They become actions.
Watch your actions;
They become habits.
Watch your habits;
They become character.
Watch your character;
It becomes your destiny.*

Lao Tzu



InspirationBoost.co



-
- How do our thoughts and language shape our beliefs, attitudes, and behavior toward (non-human) animals?
 - Does our behavior align with our values?
 - If not, what does shape our behavior?
 - What are the benefits of aligning our behaviors and our values?
 - How do we change our behavior if we choose to in a meaningful way that benefits other humans, animals, and the environment?
-

Thought experiment: Pigs



Pigs: The Reality

<https://theconversation.com/why-are-we-eating-dog-but-not-bacon-43796>

Pigs are extremely interesting animals. They're able to solve challenging problems, they love to play, they display a wide range of emotions, and they have unique individual personalities.

- A good deal of research on pigs centers on their welfare, because pigs are used globally for food and are treated horribly.
- Thinking Pigs authors: "Pigs display consistent behavioral and emotional characteristics that have been described variously as personality. e.g., coping styles, response types, temperament, and behavioral tendencies."
- Concerning the emotional lives of pigs, they note, "Some of the more interesting studies demonstrating emotional contagion in pigs involve responses to other pigs' anticipation of positive or negative events, revealing the importance of social factors in emotion. In one study, naïve test pigs were exposed to pen mates who had been trained to anticipate upcoming rewarding events (receiving straw and chocolate raisins) or aversive events ([social isolation](#)). When the naïve pigs were placed in the company of the trained pigs they adopted the same emotional anticipatory behaviors (e.g., ear and tail postures, increased cortisol release) as the trained pigs with the direct experience. These findings show that not only can pigs connect with the emotions of other pigs, but they can also do so with pigs who are responding emotionally in anticipation of future events (Reimert, Bolhuis, Kemp, & Rodenburg, 2013)."

Those who
can make you
believe
absurdities
can make
you commit
atrocities

- Voltaire

Development of human moral attitudes toward animals



Development of Human Moral Attitudes Toward Animals



A recently published study by Wilks et.al. asked the following question:

- Is the tendency to morally prioritize humans over animals weaker in children than adults?
- To answer the question, in two studies they presented 622 5- to 9-year-old children and adults with moral dilemmas pitting varying numbers of humans against varying numbers of either dogs or pigs.

Respondents were asked who should be saved?

In both studies, children had a weaker tendency than adults to prioritize humans over animals.

- Children often chose to save multiple dogs over one human, and many valued the life of a dog as much as the life of a human.
- Although they valued pigs less, the majority still prioritized 10 pigs over one human.
- By contrast, almost all adults chose to save one human over even 100 dogs or pigs.

Their findings suggest that the common view that humans are far more morally important than animals appears late in development and is likely socially acquired.

- How does this occur?

Link to article:

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956797620960398?journalCode%3Dpssa&source=gmail&ust=1609852559679000&usg=AFQjCNHJp3MrEsGZ-hwnGleoSEr_FZ06Og

Language and Awareness of Choice

- Language influences our thoughts, beliefs, and behavior
- How we speak about animals - in our conversations, in our presentations, in our classrooms - matter

A self-described “lover of language and an advocate for animals”, Colleen Patrick-Goudreau’s Animalogy Ted Talk discusses hundreds of words, idioms, metaphors, proverbs, everyday expressions – even letters of the alphabet – that have animals hidden within.

“These “animalogies” reflect how deeply connected we are to animals but also how disdainfully we regard them. This thought-provoking and language-altering talk will forever change the way you talk and think about animals – both human and non-human. Changing the way we talk about animals might not change animals, but it might just change the world”.

Animalogy: Change your language. Change the world. | Colleen Patrick-Goudreau | TEDxDupreePark

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_BKbKDMzcs



Developing Pro-social and Animal Inclusive Language, Attitudes and Beliefs Through Humane Education

Humane Education encourages cognitive, affective and pro-social behavioral growth through personal development of critical thinking, problem solving, perspective taking, and empathy as it related to people, animals, the planet and the intersections among them.



• **Humane Education/Pedagogy** uses education to nurture compassion and respect for all living things and examines the intersection of social justice issues with a **focus on identifying SYSTEMIC problems and solutions**

• Examines the **“true price”** of our relationship to other species and how it impacts all stakeholders in terms of:

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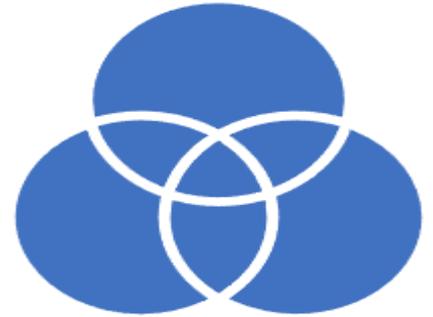
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Environmental Stewardship

• **Asks is there an alternative behavior that will cause less harm?**

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Language Matters-

What breeder should I buy from?

OR

What rescue should I adopt from?

Yearly number of shelter animals euthanized in the United States:

- Approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats).

Roughly equivalent to the number of companion animals bought from breeders and puppy mills

- Individual influence and behavior impacts unjust and oppressive systems and individual choices
- What opportunities can you find to incorporate intentional language and thought into your education opportunities?





“Move the World”

Teaching at Iona College and learning about
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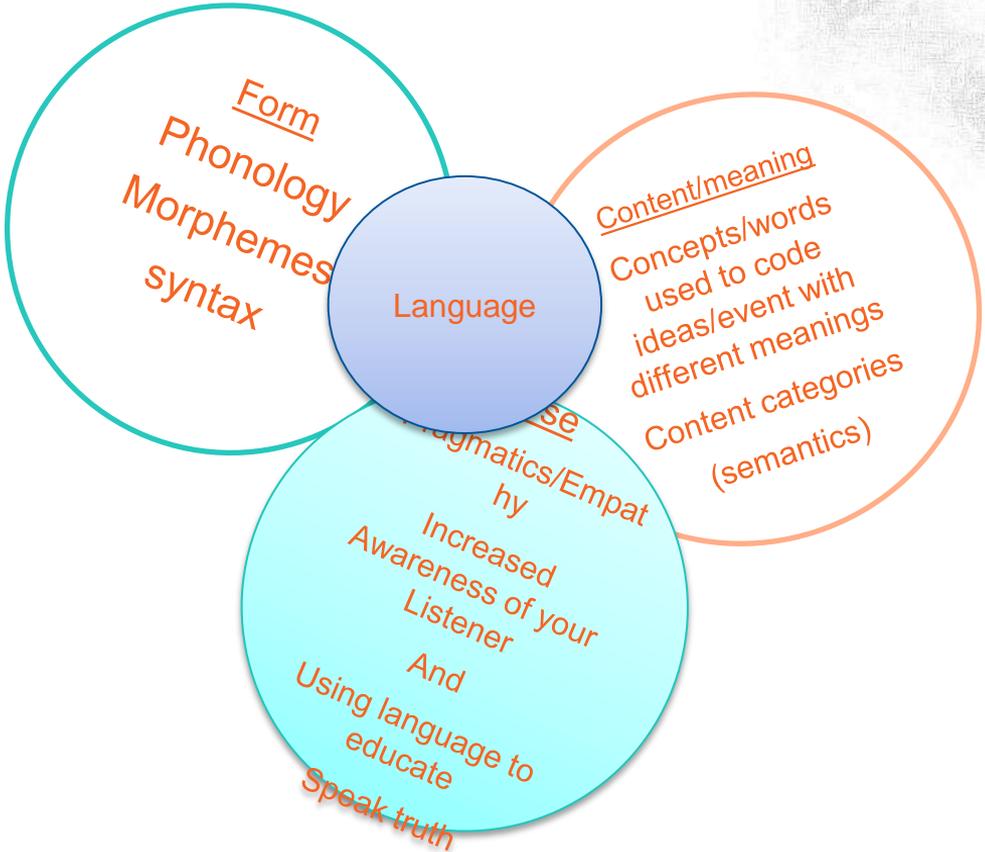
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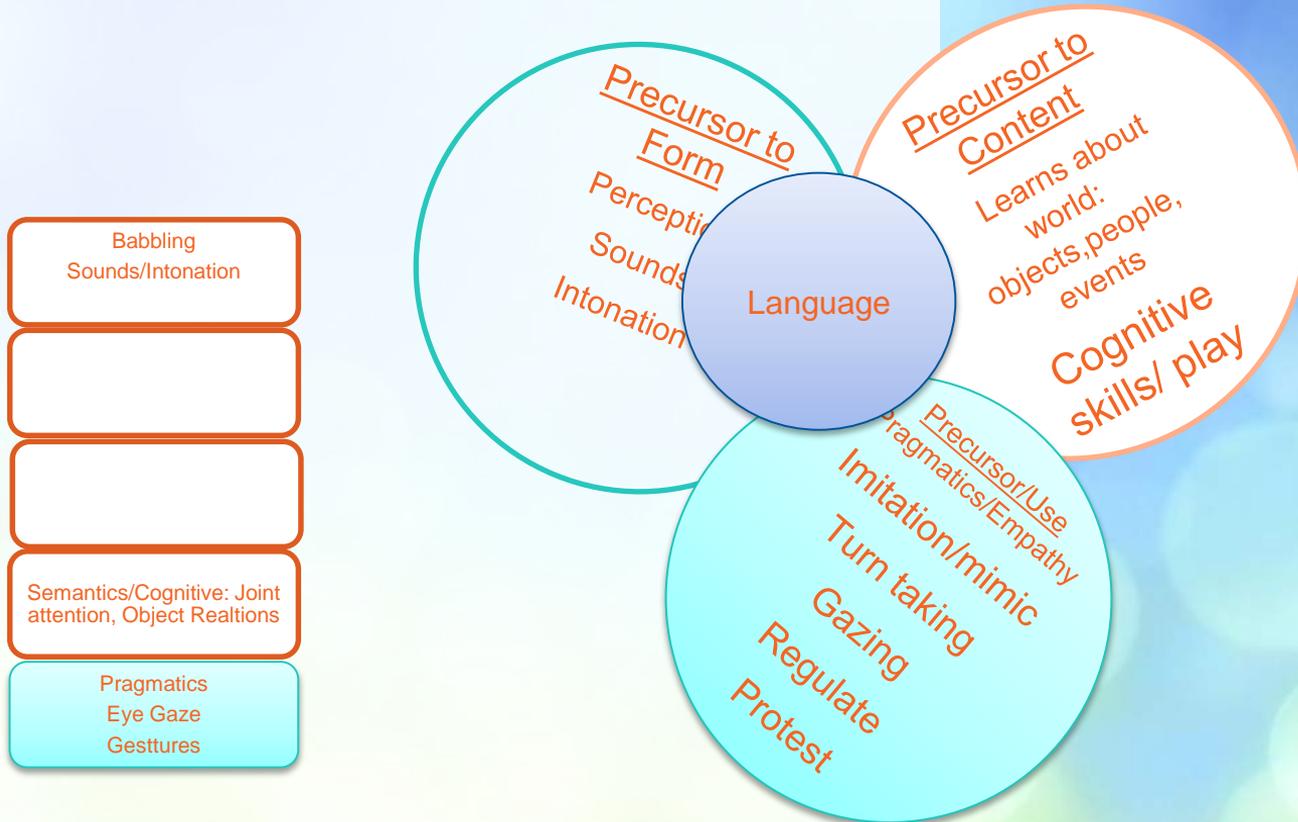
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And LANGUAGE Precursors



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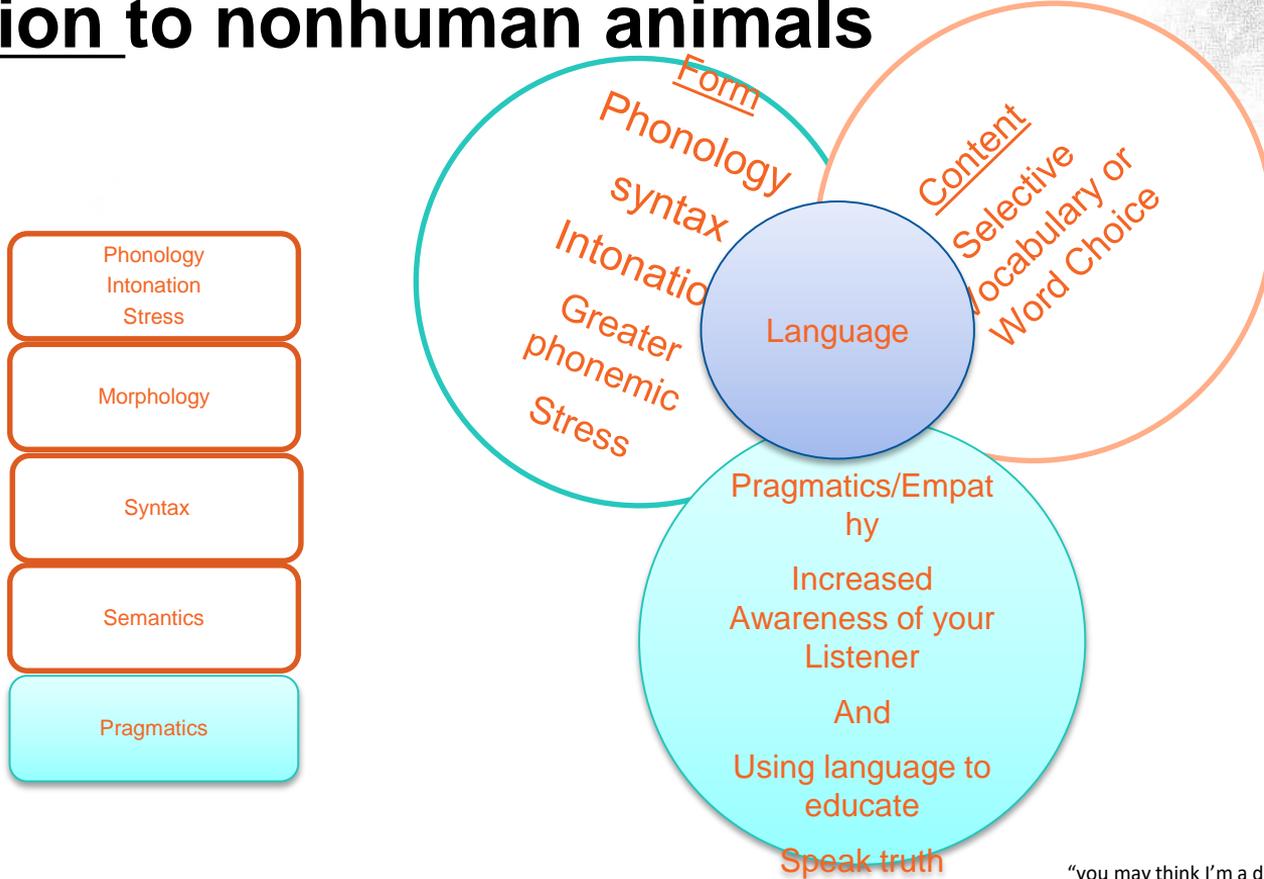
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Empathy Precursors

Child Directed Speech (CDS)



<https://vimeo.com/119255263>

CDS and PDS

Dog/Pet Directed Speech (PDS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69>



Dogs respond to Motherese Happy Speech behaviors

- High Pitched voice
- Short Phrases
- Pausing
- Reciprocal eye gaze
- A form of turn taking
- Engage and play

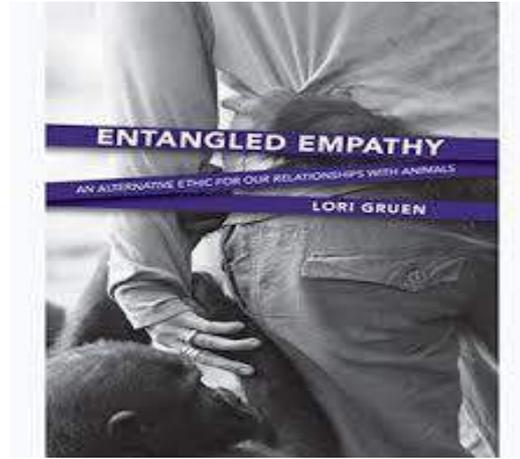


Empathy in Shared attention, Role Play, Story-telling: Being aware of who your listener is and wanting to communicate to the listener; taking into consideration listener needs for communicative purposes.





Entangled Empathy



Wesleyan University philosopher Dr. Lori Gruen: *Entangled Empathy: An Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with Animals*

Entangled Empathy is a type of caring perception focused on attending to another's experience of well-being. It is an experiential process involving a blend of emotion and cognition in which we recognize we are in relationships with others and are called upon to be responsive and responsible in these relationships by attending to another's needs, interests, desires, vulnerabilities, hopes, and sensitivities.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/entangled-empathy-how-to-improve-human-animal-relationships_b_6760696

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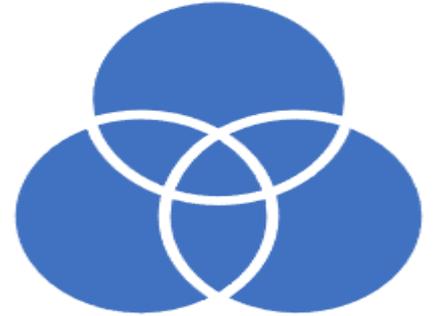
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Shifting Attitudes and Laws to Protect Non-human Animals Benefits Humans

- "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" – **Mahatma Gandhi**
- "We should have respect for animals because it makes better human beings of us all" - **Jane Goodall**
- "We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals...For the animals shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth". -**Henry Beston, Naturalist Writer, The Outermost House (1928)**



Animal protection is a social justice issue, connected to and intersected with all social justice issues

“The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.” —Paul Farmer

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

“Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act.”-
Albert Einstein

Be a Hummingbird - video (2m Wangari Maathai, activist,
founder of the Greenbelt Movement and first African woman
to win the Nobel Peace Prize)

[Hummingbird:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGMW6YWjMxw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGMW6YWjMxw)

Including animals in social justice discourse:

"The reason I dedicate myself to helping animals so much is
that there are already so many people dedicated to hurting
them." ~ unknown



Marrakesh, Morocco

Written by Louise Jackson, rescuer, Help Adopt Moroccan Animals

A man stopped me today as I was feeding and caring for some dogs and politely tried to tell me why I should not touch street dogs at all. He told me they have fleas and ticks and maybe rabies. I explained to him that I love dogs and that I try to improve their health and reduce the risk of these things in the dogs around me and with the help of others around the world we pay money, yes money, and it costs a lot, to give these dogs a life without parasites and diseases and multiple pregnancies. I explained to him we do it for the dogs because they deserve it and also for the community....

He listened as I told him it's not the dogs that are the problem, it's the human population and the culture and attitudes towards animals that needs to change and not my love for them, that in fact out of the dogs in the area where he clearly lives, the collective care for Benson with his broken leg and Betty and her gift of a life without the ordeal of multiple pregnancies has improved the life of two of the street dogs and saved him hundreds more pups on the street.

I also met a homeless woman who is well-known around the area as she is always in the company of a large pack of dogs. They adore her and follow her everywhere. She begs for money just to get them some food. Today she was sleeping on a grassy area and alongside her were about 10 dogs all sleeping too. We touched and fed the dogs, one was pregnant, one had recently had babies, one had a large tumour on his genitals. Friendly, content dogs, sadly with urgent health needs.

It's been a strange day, emotional and sentimental...and I have so much that I should post about... especially Betty and Benson but to give them their true deserving space I will update on them tomorrow. I would like to add they are both safe and have shelter and care thanks to

Help Adopt Moroccan Animals

[#streetanimals](#) [#adoptmoroccananimals](#) [#rescuedog](#) [#rescueyourbestfriend](#)

[#animalsheltermorocco](#) [#adoptdontshop](#) [#change](#)



North Shore Animal League America and Help Adopt Moroccan Animals

<https://www.helpadoptmoroccananimals.org/>



Hubcsh (Hu-bush) is a living miracle. A true testament to the special nature of dogs.

Hubcsh, meaning 'beautiful' in Dutch is approximately 6 years old female dog who was found left for dead in the streets of Marrakech, Morocco. She is exactly as her name describes, she is an incredibly gentle soul who is always happy to connect.

We found Hubcsh bleeding to death in the street with a severe vaginal injury, she had been raped by a monster who had taken advantage of her friendly trusting nature. People in the street had passed her by for days aware of her suffering with no assistance, we had no choice but to move to help her.

In the time it took to gain her trust we were met with abuse and name calling by local people who couldn't understand what we were doing. After 6 hours we rescued her and took her straight to the vet for life saving emergency surgery. She underwent surgery for hours and after we were able to bring her home to our place, a place that she could feel safe and be with other dogs, play, run, eat and feel secure and loved and recover from her trauma.

Despite the terrible treatment she had and the unimaginable experience she still trusted and wiggled her tail for us even in the early days..

As the years have passed by we have seen her blossom. She plays like the happiest child ever, welcoming any visitors with amazing energy. You would never believe what happened to her. Hubcsh has been here for over 4 years now, through no fault of her own. We don't get many adoptions here, it's not the culture especially when dogs are Moroccan dogs. She is so deserving of a forever home and has so much love to give. She deserves a better quality of life than we can offer her at the refuge and a forever happy ending.



PAKO: The story of the unexpected puppy

Very late on a cold cold night we moved to rescue a skinny weak female dog who was on the streets fighting for survival. Unknown to us at the time the dog, later named Shaggy, was giving birth and when we got to her had already given birth to two dead puppies. She started pushing to get her 3rd baby out while in the car on the way to the shelter. She was doing her best to deliver her last hope and at the exact moment we reached the shelter she gave her last push to give birth and gave us the little miracle that is Pako... Pako is an amazing puppy who we have had the absolute joy of watching grow into a sweet natured 4 months old playful pup, he loves to have fun with the other dogs and interact with any new human friends on offer. Despite the constant battle to survive against all odds and her supportive team, Ibtissam Ait Mericha could not ignore the plea and moved to the location to not only save Shaggy but amazing little Pako too.



Rue <https://ikimashouadventures.com/2021/02/14/new-ruemate/>





Additional Resources for Creating Thoughtful Interconnections Between Human and Non-Human Animals

The link to ASI Membership information is:

<https://www.animalsandsociety.org/join-us/>

ASI has multiple types of membership including Individual, Student-Scholar, Scholar, and Professional, with benefits to fit different interests and needs. *Multiple* benefits to membership included ASI's Human-Animal Studies report newsletter, as well as access to ASI's digital archives which contain much of ASI's published material. These are fantastic resources that highlight the breadth and depth of what people are thinking and doing in the field of Human-Animal Studies.



The World Will Change If We Do
All Life Matters When Creating
a Just, Healthy, Equitable and
Sustainable World



There are a billion lives out there
that could share Conrad Sheppard's
soft side from.



Only a punk
would hurt
a cat or dog.

show your soft side



Advertisement for the 2014-2015 National Pet Adoption Week
Presented by Conard Sheppard

- It is an illusion that humans are disconnected from each other, other species and our environment. We are all intricately connected.
- When we connect the disconnect and cultivate empathy and compassion for all beings, especially those we are indoctrinated into disregarding, using, fearing, disliking, and consuming, we will move toward creating a truly equitable, healthy, sustainable and safe world for us all.



Questions and Contact

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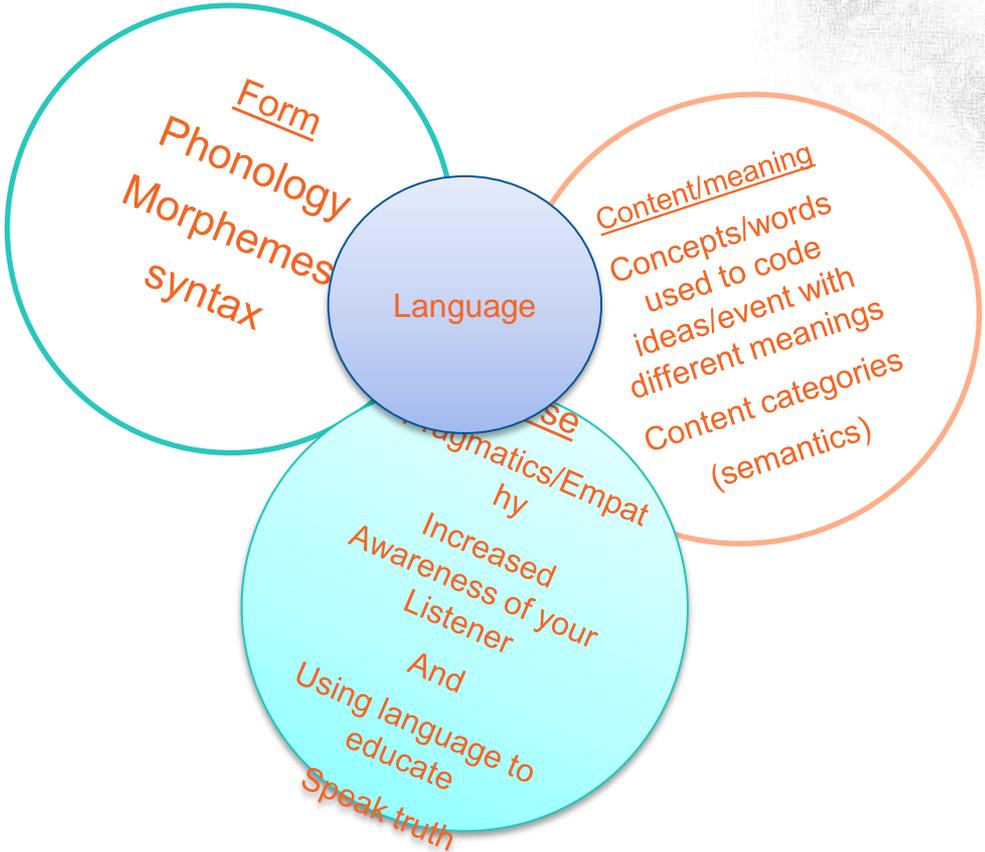
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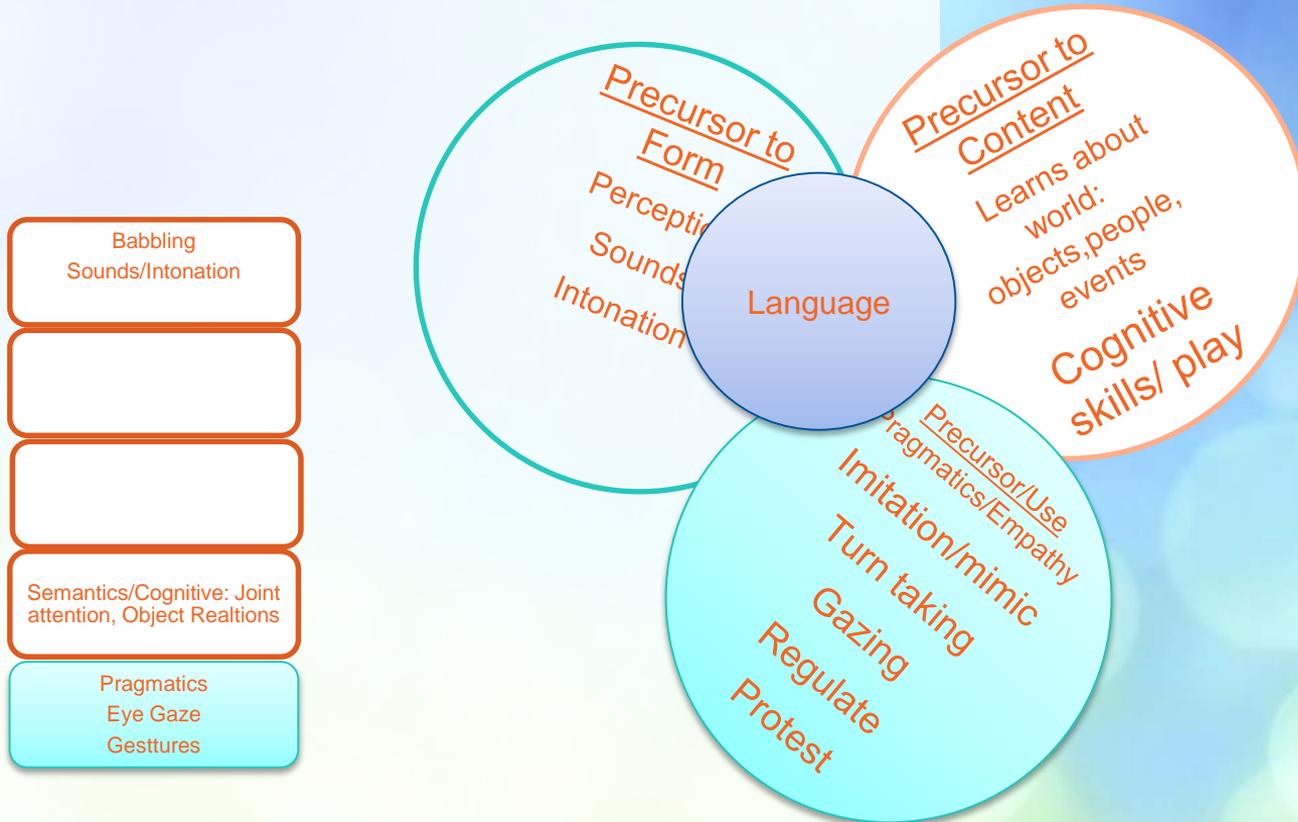
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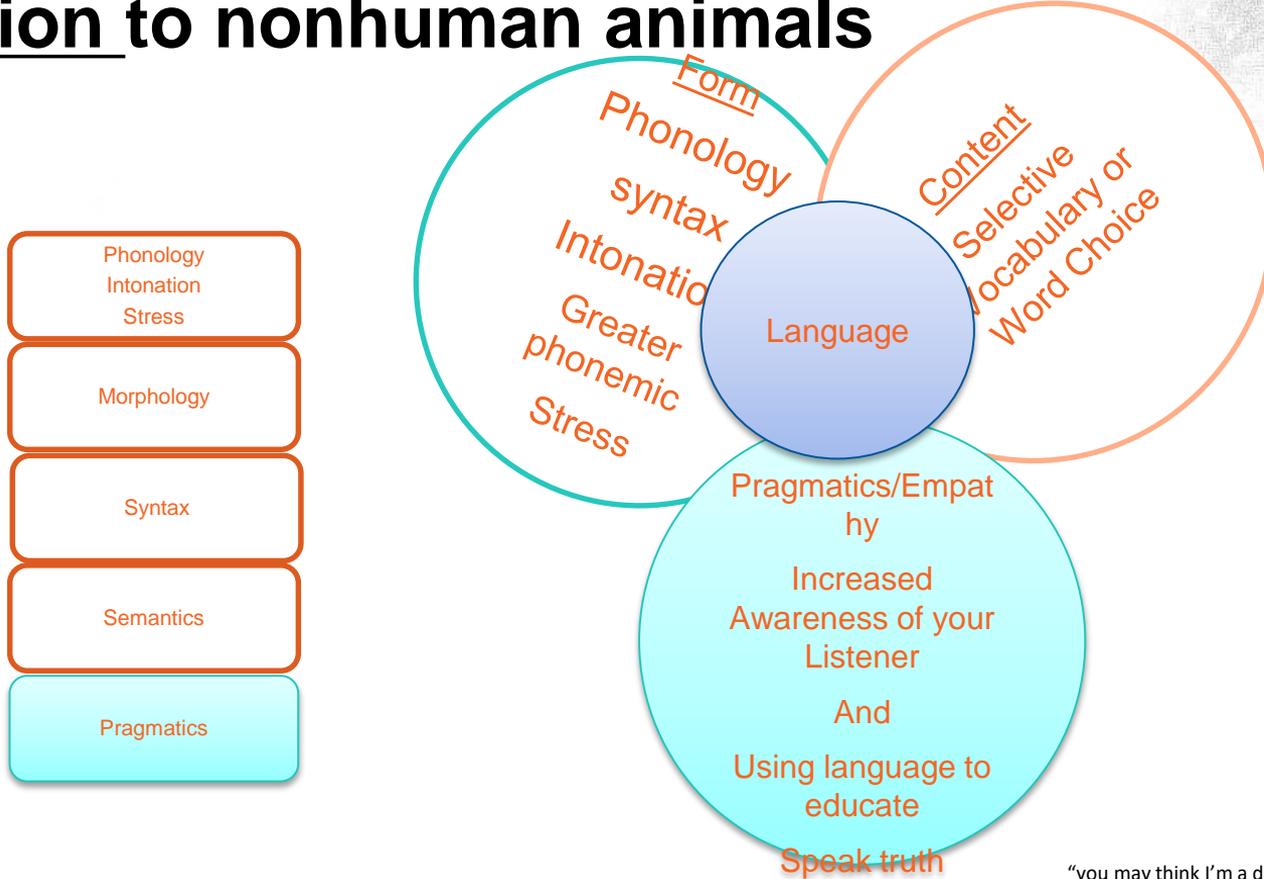
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- Four puppies spread magic of relatedness and saw the resilience of children

Empathy Precursors

Child Directed Speech (CDS)



<https://vimeo.com/119255263>

CDS and PDS

Dog/Pet Directed Speech (PDS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>



Dogs respond to Motherese Happy Speech behaviors

- High Pitched voice
- Short Phrases
- Pausing
- Reciprocal eye gaze
- A form of turn taking
- Engage and play



Empathy in Shared attention, Role Play, Story-telling: Being aware of who your listener is and wanting to communicate to the listener; taking into consideration listener needs for communicative purposes.



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