

ACTIVITY

6

Rescue Teams

Issues

Physical insecurity, emotional insecurity, a need to be cared for.

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for children to develop courage and learn to cooperate with and care about others.

Materials

Stuffed baby animals, sheet or blanket, and wide ribbon or rope.

Procedure

Tell the children a story about a little kitten who gets lost. For example, a little kitten gets lost under a thick cluster of bushes. A group of children walking home from school hears the kitten's scared and lonely sounding meows. The children decide to form a rescue team by linking their hands one to another and carefully inching the first child under the bushes to rescue the kitten. The first child passes the kitten down the rescue chain, to the next child. From hand to hand, each child comforts the kitten with words and strokes. Have the children discuss their feelings about the story.

After the story, drape the sheet or blanket over a low table and place the stuffed animal under the table. Guide groups of about four or five children in becoming a rescue team for the toy animal.

Variations

Tell the same story as in the first procedure, then assist children in forming rescue teams to come to the aid of a "lost" or separated child. Create a divide by placing a ribbon or rope on the floor. Have the rescue team lead their classmate to safety amid greetings of joy and caring. Repeat as needed.

Suggestions

Ask the children who could become a rescue team for them if they ever need one at home or in their neighborhood.