School Pet Caregiver

(adapted from “Meaningful Jobs” – Scott May, Principal, Apollo Elementary, Goddard, Kansas)

The Kansas vision for education includes postsecondary and career preparation, social engagement, and communication as the foundational structures of education in our schools and classrooms. From simple jobs in the earliest grades through high school internships, meaningful work supports the academic and social competencies that lead to post-school success.

“Meaningful jobs allow students the opportunity to contribute in a way that both the students and the adults see value. Everyone likes to contribute to their family or workplace in meaningful ways.  These responsibilities give students with disabilities or behavior concerns the opportunities to have repeated positive interactions with others and learn from those experiences."  - Scott May

The ideas and supports included in these resources are ready to be edited to support growth and independence for individual students.

# Job Description

The School Pet Caregiver provides water and food to the school therapy dog and takes him on a morning walk before school starts.



www.reidhealth.org

**Job Duties**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Report to your supervisor |
|  | Put food and water in Sammy’s bowls |
|  | Take Sammy on a walk |
|  | Return to class |

**Sample visual supports**

Below are checklists and visual supports that might be used to support the student in preparation for this important school job. Some students will benefit from having a checklist with pictures or photos to complete the steps of the job, while others might only need a checklist with words. As you can see, these steps can easily be modified to fit the needs of the student and to align with the requirements of the job in your school.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School Pet Caregiver | | |
|  | Step: | √ |
|  | 1. Report to Mrs. Tolbert at 7:45 |  |
|  | 1. Put food in Sammy’s bowl |  |
|  | 1. Put water in Sammy’s bowl |  |
|  | 1. Put Sammy’s leash on |  |
| occupations-dog handler | 1. Walk Sammy around the gym 4 times |  |
|  | 1. Take Sammy’s leash off |  |
|  | 1. Go back to class |  |

Visual Support for keeping track of laps while walking the dog:

* Print and laminate the visual support
* Cut out the stars and attach to a white strip with Velcro
* Attach the strips to the gym wall
* After every lap the student moves a star down so that he knows when he has completed four laps

**Lap 2**

**Lap 3**

**Lap 4**

**Lap 1**

**More Pet Care visual supports**

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**Feed the Dog**



\_\_\_\_Measure **3/4 cup** food

\_\_\_\_Pour food in bowl

\_\_\_\_Measure **1 cup** water

\_\_\_\_Pour water in bowl

Materials can be color-coded to provide clarity to the steps of the task.

 

All of the visual supports shown could easily be adapted for any type of pet. These visual supports could also be used in a school-wide job, classroom job, or shared with families to be used at home. Using real photos in the student’s environment would further individualize these supports.

**Feeding A Pet**

\_\_\_\_Fill food bowl with \_\_\_\_ of food

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\_\_\_\_Fill water bowl with\_\_\_\_ of water



Pet Care

\_\_\_\_Walk dog 

\_\_\_\_Give a treat 

\_\_\_\_Fill food bowl 

\_\_\_\_Fill water bowl 

A flip book could be created to show the steps of the task one at a time. Real photos, or the icons below, could be used.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  | walk dog |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | dog food |
| measure-measuring cup | measure-one fourth cup | dry cat food |
| feed dog.png | core-dog | animals-cat_06 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| walk dog | dog leash | animals-cat litter |
| animals-cat food | feed cat | occupations-dog handler |
| dog cannel | feed dog | dog brush |
| dog treats | tennis ball |  |



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