



A new puppy

For 7-11 year olds

English | PSHE | Citizenship

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Teacher's notes


About this activity

Getting a puppy is a big commitment, and it's important that children and their families fully understand what is involved in owning a dog before getting one. Pupils read the story 'A new puppy', which explores Jenny and her mum's experience of getting a puppy and then answer ten questions about the story. The activity practices pupils' reading comprehension skills with a focus on retrieving information, as well as developing their awareness and understanding of what is involved in owning a dog.



Age range: 7-11 years

Subjects: English, PSHE and Citizenship

You will need:

-  For individual or group work – copies of the story (pupil version) and question sheet. The answers are highlighted in the teacher version of the story on pages 3-4

How to use this activity:

-  Individually or in pairs/groups - pupils read the story and answer the questions on the worksheet.
-  Whole class – with younger or less able pupils read the story together and identify the answers to the questions

A new puppy story

Teacher version: Answers highlighted in green

It was an exciting day for Jenny and her mum. Today they would bring home their new puppy.

They had visited the rescue centre many times before deciding to adopt a puppy called Bailey. It has been a hard decision to make, as there were lots of dogs at the rescue centre. But they had thought about it carefully and decided that a Springer Spaniel would be perfect as they liked long walks and adventures.

Before they bought their new puppy home, they wrote a list of what they needed to buy for their new dog. They had never owned a dog before, so Jenny did some research to find out what dogs need to be happy and healthy. She found out that all dogs need yearly visits to the vet, as well as training, regular exercise, and lots of toys and games to stop them from getting bored.

Bailey had already had a full health check at the vets. He had been given a microchip, flea and worming treatment, and an injection to prevent him from getting certain illnesses. However, Jenny's mum knew that if Bailey did get sick or injured, it could cost a lot of money at the vets to make him better, so she decided to buy him pet insurance too.

When they brought Bailey home, they had everything ready for him. He had a new bed, his favourite dog food, his very own lead and collar with a tag showing his new address and owner's name, as well as plenty of toys.

That night, when Bailey went to bed and was left alone, he cried. Jenny's mum explained that it was probably because he was a bit scared because he was in a new home and that soon he would settle in.

Soon, Bailey felt much more confident. He started to get up to all sorts of mischief around the house. He chewed Jenny's favourite toy, tried to chase the cat, and even forgot to go outside to the toilet!

Teacher version: Continued

Jenny was upset, but her mum said that Bailey wasn't being naughty. He was behaving that way because he was just a puppy and was still learning. So, they decided to take Bailey to puppy training classes.

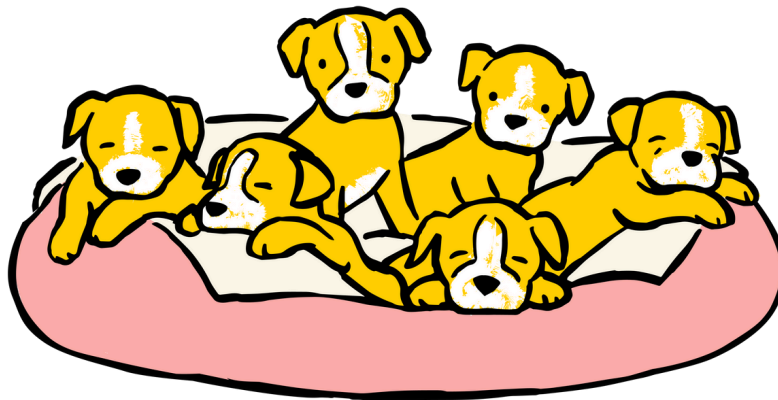
Bailey loved training classes. If he got something right, he got a tasty treat, and if he got something wrong, he didn't get shouted at. Jenny had lots of fun too, teaching Bailey new tricks. That night Bailey slept soundly in his bed all night long.

When it was time for Jenny to go back to school and leave Bailey with her mum, she stroked him goodbye and promised to take him for a walk as soon as she got home.

Bailey was sitting waiting when Jenny arrived home from school at 4pm. She looked up at the grey sky, grabbed her umbrella and welly boots and went for a walk in the rain with her mum and Bailey.

Bailey had been living with his new family for one month when Jenny's Auntie came to visit. She asked if they were enjoying having a puppy and if they were thinking of getting another pet.

Jenny and her mum thought for a moment. Whilst they loved Bailey dearly, they thought about how much money it had cost to buy Bailey everything that he needed. They remembered how they had had no sleep when Bailey was feeling scared at night and how he chewed Jenny's favourite toy. They didn't like cleaning the carpet when Bailey forgot where to go to the toilet or getting soaking wet walking him in the rain. They looked at each other and replied: "maybe some fish might be nice next time".



A new puppy story

Pupil version

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Before they bought their new puppy home, they wrote a list of what they needed to buy for their new dog. They had never owned a dog before, so Jenny did some research to find out what dogs need to be happy and healthy. She found out that all dogs need yearly visits to the vet, as well as training, regular exercise, and lots of toys and games to stop them from getting bored.

Bailey had already had a full health check at the vets. He had been given a microchip, flea and worming treatment, and an injection to prevent him from getting certain illnesses. However, Jenny's mum knew that if Bailey did get sick or injured, it could cost a lot of money at the vets to make him better, so she decided to buy him pet insurance too.

When they brought Bailey home, they had everything ready for him. He had a new bed, his favourite dog food, his very own lead and collar showing his new address and owner's name, and plenty of toys.

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Pupil version: Continued

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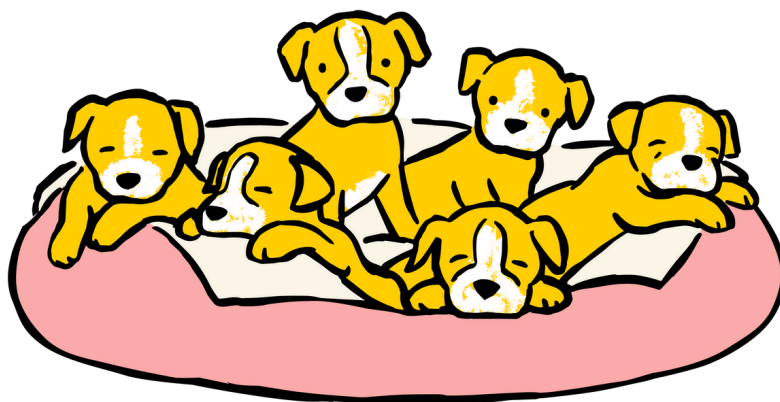
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A new puppy task

Share the below questions with whole class or use the pupil sheet

1. Why did Jenny and her mum choose to adopt a Springer Spaniel?
2. What four things did Jenny find that dogs need to be happy and healthy?
3. What did Jenny's mum buy for Bailey in case he got sick or injured?
4. Why did Bailey cry when he was left alone at night?
5. What sort of mischief did Bailey get up to around the house?
6. Why did Bailey get up to mischief around the house?
7. Why did Bailey love the training classes?
8. What did Jenny do at 4pm when she arrived back from school?
9. What things might put someone off the idea of getting a puppy?
10. What pet might Jenny and her mum get next time?

A new puppy task

Can you find the answers to the questions below in the story?

Why did Jenny and her mum choose to adopt a Springer Spaniel?

What four things did Jenny find that dogs need to be happy and healthy?

What did Jenny's mum buy for Bailey in case he got sick or injured?

Why did Bailey cry when he was left alone at night?

What sort of mischief did Bailey get up to around the house?

A new puppy task

Can you find the answers to the questions below in the story?

Why did Bailey get up to mischief around the house?

Why did Bailey love the training classes?

What did Jenny do at 4pm when she arrived back from school?

What things might put someone off the idea of getting a puppy?

What pet might Jenny and her mum get next time?
