

DOT THE FIRE DOG

Dot the Fire Dog

by Lisa Desimini

Themes: Fire safety, animals, careers

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Running Time: 10 minutes

SUMMARY

Dot is a Dalmatian who lives in a fire station. Sometimes she plays catch with one of her firefighter friends, while others play games, read a book, or cook spaghetti. But when the fire bell rings, Dot and her friends drop everything and get ready to fight a fire. The firefighters get dressed in their black pants, jackets, and boots. Everyone, including Dot, puts on their helmets. They jump into the big red engine and speed off to the fire. Dot and the firefighters rescue people and animals in trouble and work hard to put out the fire. This video opens the worlds of firefighters and their helpful animal companions to students with vibrant animation.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about life-on-the-job for a firefighter.
- Students will learn fire safety tips.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss fire fighting with the students to activate and assess their background knowledge. Guiding questions:

- What are the main jobs of a firefighter?
- What do firefighters do when they're not putting out fires?

- What kind of animal often works with firefighters?
- Does anyone know a firefighter?

Discuss fire safety with the students. List their responses on a KWL chart (what I Know, what I Want to learn, what I Learned) to return to after viewing the video. Guiding questions:

- What should you do if you hear a fire alarm (in your house/at school)?
- What kinds of things can start fires?
- number do you call on the telephone if there's a fire?
- What do you do if your clothes are on fire?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Set up a "fire center" during literacy block or choice time. Prepare cards with scenarios such as: "You are sleeping in your bed and the smoke alarm goes off. What should you do?" Each card should have roles for 3-5 students to work together to act out the scenario (i.e. child in bed, brother/sister, mom, dad, pet, 911 operator, etc.).

Provide props for students to use. After acting out the scenario, each group member should answer several questions about what happened. The answers can be written or multiple choice. Provide visual reinforcement for the text for beginning readers and English Language Learners.

Take a trip to the local fire station. Arrange with the chief to tour the station and trucks, and allow time for students to ask questions. Suggested follow-up activities: thank-you notes to the firefight-

ers, essays or illustrations on a favorite part of the trip, small groups to make make fire safety posters for the classroom, students to create a fire safety checklist for their homes.

Return to the KWL chart from the Before Viewing Activity. Have students write about or illustrate one new thing they learned about fire fighting or fire safety from the video. Add these to child's assessment portfolio or display with the chart.

Talk about careers with students. Help them brainstorm a list of possible careers. Try to find resources on those careers such as books, magazines, movies, or websites. If possible, arrange for parents and community members with different careers to come in to talk to students about their jobs. Students can also find out about well-known figures in the careers that interest them and write them letters.

Other videos about different types of jobs available from Weston Woods are:

Burt Dow: Deep-Water Man by Robert McCloskey

Doctor De Soto by William Steig

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann

The Paperboy by Dav Pilkey

So You Want to Be President? by Judith St.

George, ill. by David Small

Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha, ill. by Dan Yaccarino

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