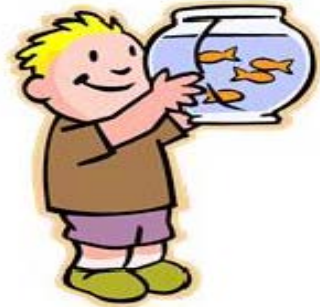


Let's Have A Pet Parade!



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End-Of-The-Year Fun

One of the extra-fun things I like to plan for my students at the end of the year is a **pet parade**.

I'm allergic to animals so having them bring them in for *Show and Tell Time* was something I couldn't do.

However, I realize the importance of a pet in a child's life and wanted to allow them to share this important family member with their classmates, so I dreamed up the end-of-the-year Pet Parade.

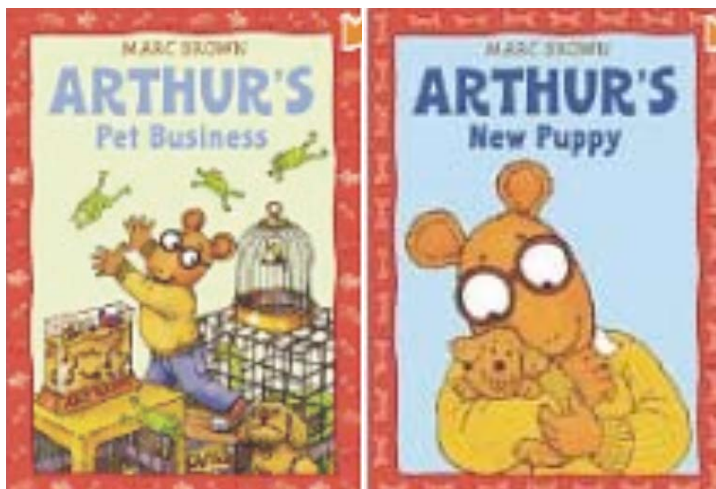
Because the weather is wonderful in Michigan at this time of year, it's the perfect time for an outdoor event and then the animal's dander, fur, feathers and fluff don't bother me.

Here's How I Plan My Pet Parade:



Incase of rain, the parade is moved to the next day and if we're rained out again, it's simply cancelled. It hasn't happened yet!

- In advance, send a note home to parents telling them about the event and inviting younger siblings and family members.
- I also invite the preschool and kindergarten classes to come make a line down the parade route and join the fun.
- It lasts about 7 minutes from start to finish, with time afterwards for children to sit with their pet and have students walk by to pet the animals and ask questions.
- You can videotape or take photographs and then add it to a PowerPoint presentation for your Open House the following fall.
- If a child does not have a pet, or if their pet is unable to attend, I send home a red construction paper heart.
- They can draw or cut pictures out of a pet they would like to have, or glue photographs of their pet that could not come.
- They carry the hearts in the parade so no one feels left out. I alternate the heart-carrying children with the real pets walking in the parade.
- I also keep cats away from dogs etc. Everyone is reminded to bring things to keep their pets under control and clean up after them.
- In the past we have had wonderful participation and very interesting pets. Everything from a pony and goat to a goose, mouse, lizard and chicken!
- I plan our parade for the last thing in our day, so that after the parade parents may take their child home. I'm usually left with only half an hour left in my day and 1 to 4 children.



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- The children are extremely excited before the parade, so to calm them down, I turn off the lights and show the video [Arthur's Pet Business](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNvYhd9-cuo).
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNvYhd9-cuo> You can view it on YouTube.
- Arthur's [New Puppy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Hyskf9Y-yM&feature=related) is also on You Tube. This link has both part one and two on it. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Hyskf9Y-yM&feature=related>
- We do other pet-related things that day as well.
- We graph if you have a pet or not, and what kind of pet students have.

- I read several stories about pets as well. My Y5's enjoy the Biscuit and Clifford series. *Biscuit Wants to Play* is a great "I Can Read" book that involves this adorable brown puppy making friends with two kittens who'd rather chase a butterfly. They get caught up a tree and Biscuit rescues them.
- *Clifford's Kitten* and *Clifford's Family* are also great follow up books. *Oh The Pets You Can Get*, by Tish Rabe, as well as *Caring for Your Pets*, by Ann Owen are also nice "pet" reads.
- I also give certificates of participation to everyone.



Dreams Come True:

As I stated earlier I've been allergic to animals all of my life. Wanting a pet has been a life-long desire.

Only recently, did I discover through my daughter Kelli, that I was not allergic to Poodles! She has a Standard Poodle named Sadie.

We watched Sadie for several weeks while my daughter was on vacation and I just fell in love with her.

My husband felt it was time I became a pet owner at long last, so we now have a sweet little puppy named Chloe. She's tucked into my daughter's jacket on the right photo.

In celebration of her, I wrote the easy reader *[Puppy Love](http://bit.ly/j9y4Fp)*. <http://bit.ly/j9y4Fp> As with all of my "easy readers", it includes flashcards and a certificate of praise.

I've also included a cute little ditty about dogs that someone sent me. The author is unknown and I revamped it a bit, now that I'm learning all about being the wonderful recipient of "puppy love."



Hi!

DEAR:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR PET PARADE.

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE:

PARTICIPANTS:

ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW:

HOPE YOU CAN COME!

SINCERELY,





Dear Families,

- We will be having a pet parade on _____.
- This is to allow an opportunity for your child to bring in their pet to share with their classmates.
- Make sure that your pet is on a leash or in other appropriate means of containment so they do not “escape” or become involved with the other animals.
- Make sure that you have brought along a clean up bag for “nature calls”.
- Please keep your pet outside.
- I will be bringing the children out promptly at _____ and meeting you at _____ where we will get in line for our parade.
- You may bring younger siblings and grandparents as well as any other interested family members.
- The parade should last about 7 minutes.
- Afterwards children will be able to pet the animals, if appropriate, and ask questions.
- You are free to sign your child out and take them home after the parade.
- So that I know who will be attending, please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible.
- So that no child will feel left out, those children whose pet cannot attend, or those who do not have pets will receive a large heart to take home and decorate with a photo of their pet or a pet they would like to have. They will carry this heart in the parade.
- Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation in this fun event in your child’s life.

Educationally Yours,



Yes we will be coming to the parade and bringing a _____.

Signed: _____ Student’s Name: _____

No we cannot come to the parade. My child will be decorating a heart.

Signed: _____ Student’s Name: _____

We will be coming to the parade, but we **do not** have a pet. My child will be decorating a heart.

Signed: _____ Student’s Name: _____



Dear Families, Just a reminder that our Pet Parade is tomorrow.
Please meet us outside at

_____. At _____ sharp.

Thanks in advance for your time and cooperation.



Dear Families, Just a reminder that our Pet Parade is tomorrow.
Please meet us outside at

_____. At _____ sharp.

Thanks in advance for your time and cooperation.

My Pet



My Dream Pet

[illegible]

dog	cat	fish	bird	other
				
Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:	Total:



CONGRATULATIONS!

was a participant in our **PET PARADE**
with their pet



Teacher: _____

Date: _____



CONGRATULATIONS!

was a participant in our PET PARADE.



Teacher: _____

Date: _____