

Be a Tree



doggone  safe

Teresa's Tips for Teachers

Here are some tips from program co-creator Teresa Lewin to help facilitate a smoothly running program:

- ◆ Ideal group size is 25-50. Maximum is 100 if children can be seated on the floor in a close group. The smaller the group, the more children can participate, but the cost per child is higher.
- ◆ Ask the children to remember their questions until the question period - but encourage them to shout out the answer when you ask them a question.
- ◆ Having children seated on the floor in a close group in front of the presenter works better than having them remain at their desks (they can see better and there is less noise and commotion when they practice being a tree).
- ◆ Ask a teacher or other adult to be your assistant and hold up the snarly dog photo at random intervals (try to aim for about 5 times through the session).
- ◆ The teacher can watch for children who may be getting restless or about to misbehave and show the snarly dog to cause a distraction and prevent the need for teacher intervention.
- ◆ Ask the teacher to choose the volunteers when it comes time to spin the spinner and act in the toolbox scenarios - this leaves it up to the teacher's judgement to choose appropriately.
- ◆ To involve more children - the toolbox scenarios can be repeated with additional groups of actors.
- ◆ Someone always tells us that their dog does like hugs and that they hug it all the time. We suggest to them that they ask their parent to hug the dog and watch to see if they see the half moon eye or the lick or the yawn and then they will know what the dog thinks of it.
- ◆ Sometimes a child indicates that they are afraid of the family dog, or that they have been bitten several times by one or more family dogs. This should be mentioned to the teacher so that s/he can follow up using the proper procedures to ensure that an abusive situation does not continue.