

"Super Service Animals!"

Objective:

Students will learn what service animals are, who they help, and how they assist people with disabilities in everyday life.

Time:

Approximately 30–45 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers/crayons
- Printed pictures of different service animals in action (dogs, miniature horses.)
- Drawing paper and art supplies
- Stuffed animals or puppets (optional for younger grades)

Activity Steps:

1. Introduction: What's a Service Animal? (5–10 minutes)

Start with a conversation:

- “Have you ever seen a dog wearing a vest or harness in a store or airport?”
- “What do you think that dog is doing?”

Explain in simple terms:

- *“A service animal is trained to help someone with a disability. They are not pets—they have an important job!”*
- Share examples:
 - A guide dog helps someone who is blind.
 - A hearing dog alerts someone who is deaf to sounds in the environment.
 - A medical alert dog can sense seizures or low blood sugar.
 - A mobility dog helps someone who uses a wheelchair.

Show selected videos from All About Service Animals.

2. "Can This Dog Help?" Sorting Game (10–15 minutes)

Make or print out a set of picture cards showing:

- Service animals in action (e.g., guiding someone, opening a door, retrieving an object for a person using a wheelchair)
- Regular pets doing pet things (e.g., playing fetch, sleeping on a couch)

Have students sort them into two groups: **Service Animal** vs **Pet**

Ask:

- *"How can you tell the difference?"*
- *"Why do you think we shouldn't pet a service animal while it's working?"*

Talk about **rules** for being around service animals:

1. Don't pet them without asking.
2. Don't distract them while they're working.
3. Be respectful to the person (handler) with the animal—they work as a team.

3. Design Your Own Super Service Animal! (10–15 minutes)

Give each child paper and crayons and ask them to:

- Draw their own service animal
- Give it a name
- Decide who the animal helps and what special tasks it does (realistic or imaginative!)

Encourage ideas like:

- "My service dog helps me stay calm at school."
- "My mini horse helps carry my books."
- "My super dog reminds me to take my medicine."

Let the kids share their animals with the class!

4. Wrap-Up Reflection (5 minutes)

Ask questions like:

- *"What was something new you learned about service animals?"*

- *“What should you do if you see a service animal in public?”*
- *“How do service animals help people live more independently?”*

Optional Extension:

- **Guest Speaker:** Invite someone who uses a service animal to speak to the class.

Service Animal Photos





