

OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA

Book by Peggy Rathmann, ©1995
Theme: Safety/Friendship
Grade Level: K - 2
Running Time: 11:00

SUMMARY

Officer Buckle travels from school to school, giving children tips and advice on how to keep safe. The trouble with Officer Buckle's speeches is that they are just too boring! When Gloria, the police dog, accompanies him to school, things change! Especially when Gloria gives a solo performance.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about safety.
- Children will explore the meaning of friendship.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

- Have children pretend that they need to give some safety advice to other children. Encourage them to describe the safety tips they would mention and why these tips are important.
- Help children explore how it might feel to experience some particularly enjoyable things, like playing at the playground, without friends to enjoy it with.

Share the book *Officer Buckle and Gloria* with children. Then ask:

- How did the children feel about Officer Buckle's safety advice in the beginning of the story?
- How did things change when Gloria became part of Officer Buckle's speeches?
- How did things change when Gloria made a presentation without Officer Buckle?
- What could Officer Buckle and Gloria do to make their presentations more fun for children?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Chapter 1: Officer Buckle and His Collection of Safety Tips

Show children a variety of safety symbols, including a skull and crossbones with an X through it to indicate poison, a crosswalk sign, a traffic light, a stop sign, a railroad crossing sign, a no smoking sign, exit signs, etc. Discuss the meanings behind these different symbols. Then provide children with manila construction paper and markers they can use to draw safety symbols of their own invention. Give each child an opportunity to share his symbol, and talk about its meaning, with the rest of the group.

Chapter 3: Gloria Livens Up the Safety Tips Presentation

Remind children of the way Officer Buckle felt when he realized that everyone was watching Gloria and no one was listening to him. Ask:

- What did the children do to make Officer Buckle feel better?
- How do you think Officer Buckle felt at the end of the story?
- What lesson do you think Officer Buckle learned?

Chapter 5: Officer Buckle and Gloria Back Together Again

Have children work in pairs to prepare a simple presentation. At the end of the project have children consider how it felt to work in pairs as opposed to working alone. Ask:

- How did working in pairs make your job easier?
- Was it more fun than if you had done the work alone? Why?
- What did you like most about working with a partner?

Chapter 7: Officer Buckle's Safety Tips

Children are often unaware of the safety rules they follow each day. Try this activity to heighten their awareness. Cut out stars from construction paper. At the end of the day, give one star to each child, identifying a safety rule that he or she followed. For example, you might say, "I'm giving this star to Gregory for not tipping back on his chair. That would be dangerous." As you continue this activity, encourage children to be the ones to identify why each safety rule followed that day by classmates was an important one.

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