Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to understand how dogs can be trained using positive reinforcement and apply basic dog training techniques.

Materials and Prep

- Treats or small pieces of food
- A dog or a stuffed animal to practice training
- A quiet and distraction-free environment
- Paper and crayons

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

1. Introduction to Dog Training: Start by discussing what dog training is and why it is important. Talk about how dogs can learn new behaviors and follow commands.
2. Positive Reinforcement: Explain the concept of positive reinforcement, where dogs are rewarded for good behavior. Demonstrate how to use treats as rewards and ask the student to practice giving treats to the dog or stuffed animal when it follows a command.
3. Basic Commands: Teach the student a few basic dog commands such as sit, stay, and lie down. Show them how to use hand signals along with verbal cues to communicate with the dog.
4. Practice Time: Give the student opportunities to practice the commands with the dog or stuffed animal. Encourage them to be patient and consistent in their training.
5. Drawing Activity: Ask the student to draw a picture of a dog performing one of the commands they learned. Have them label the drawing with the command and explain why it is important for dogs to follow commands.

First Grade Talking Points

- "Training a dog means teaching it how to behave and follow commands."
- "We train dogs using positive reinforcement, which means we reward them when they do something good."
- "Giving treats to a dog when it listens to a command helps it understand what we want."
- "Some basic commands for dogs are sit, stay, and lie down."
- "Using hand signals along with words helps dogs understand us better."
- "We need to be patient and consistent when training a dog."
- "Drawing a picture of a dog following a command helps us remember what we learned."