

Dog at school

Having a dog at school is a way of having a joyful education using different systems which promotes both theoretical as well as physical learning. It is very important that you have access to a dog who is well trained for this task and that you have carefully been thinking off the different situations that can occur, for example if there are participants who are sensitive to noise.

We are working with well-defined goals which shall be clear to the participants and which they shall find joyful and imaginative. The following example is for training your memory.

The participants are asked to go away and hide different objects for Erk , (the dog), to find. The participants are divided into two groups, where one group stays behind with Erk, while the other group are discussing were and what to hide for Erk. They hide the different objects inside a well-defined area for about 50 X 50 meters, preferable in a diverse terrain. Then they return to the group with the dog and tell them which objects they have hidden and were they have hidden them. It is important that the objects differ in color, form and texture, so that they are easy to differ from each other.

When the first group has delivered this information, Erk is sent out to show if it is correct. When Erk is searching, he is life fully cheered at by the whole group, and the discussion of, if he is at the right path, use to be animated.

Was the red ball really hidden behind that big stone? When Erk turns back to the group with the different objects, one by one, he gets a lot of appreciation and he is well praised.

After the exercise we talk about how it worked out. We use Erk as an agent to reflect about the difficulties that had arose. Was it easy or difficult for Erk to find the hidden objects? Was it easy or hard to find good places to hide the different objects at? Was it easy or hard to remember the different places where the objects were hidden? What was good, what can be approved and which strategies can be used if Erk isn't aviable?

Erk is spreading an atmosphere of tranquility and harmony and he causes a lot of happy laughter.

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