

# LET'S GIVE KITTY A BATH!

## LET'S GIVE KITTY A BATH

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Themes: Animals, Feelings, Humor

Grade Level: K-3 (ages 4-9)

Running Time: 12 minutes

## SUMMARY

When they see their neighbor's dog getting a bath, a young brother and sister decide to bathe their cat. They fill their wading pool, but the cat does not go along with their program. In fact, the cat refuses to be captured at all. The children construct ever more elaborate and more amusing traps, getting dirtier and dirtier with each attempt at capture. When the children finally do grab the cat, the dog next door gives chase. The children end up in the pool, while the cat calmly sits on the porch washing itself.

## OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to a fictional story about a pet cat.
- Children will follow a narrative made up of a sequence of events.
- Children will compare the behavior of dogs, cats and people.

## BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

With a show of hands, identify the children who have cats at home. Ask the cat owners whether cats like getting wet. Then introduce the title of the story and ask children to predict what might

happen if someone tried to bathe a cat. Encourage them to watch the video to see if their predictions were correct. Explain that the story is told without words, so that they should pay special attention to every detail they see.

## AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Ask children to identify the parts of the story they liked the best. Make a chalkboard list of the parts in the order that children mention them. Then have children number the events in the order in which they happened in the story. To help children remember the cause and effect sequences, go back over the video, pausing at each scene to ask why each event is happening. Then discuss why each event turned out differently from what the children expected. Encourage children to speculate on what the cat was thinking or planning as the children plot its capture.

For more fun with storytelling and writing, have children invent different ways the children might have captured the cat. Encourage them to act out or write stories using their ideas. Children can also draw their stories in comic book form. They might also enjoy telling the story from the cat's point of view.

Encourage reading and library use by showing children how to find library books about cats. Discuss and explain the differences between fiction and nonfiction books and show children the library sections where each type of book can be

found. Have them practice looking up cats in the card catalog or on library computers. Locate magazines, videos and other materials on cats.

Connect the story to science by having children compare the characteristics of cats, dogs and children. Make a three-column chalkboard list to record the comparisons. Start by reviewing the behaviors shown in the program. Which two creatures don't mind getting wet? Which can climb trees? Which are covered with fur? Extend the comparisons to diet, sleep patterns and other behaviors not shown in the video.

For an art project that relates to math, have children draw pictures of cats on index cards, one cat per card. Use the cards as manipulatives for simple addition and subtraction problems. Children can also sort the cats by eye color and fur color. counting the number in each set. Instead of drawing cats, children can also cut out pictures from magazines and glue them on the cards.

Other related videos and films available from Weston Woods include:  
CAT & CANARY, by Michael Forman  
HERE COMES THE CAT! by Vladimir Vagin and Frank Asch  
MILLIONS OF CATS, by Wanda Gâg

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