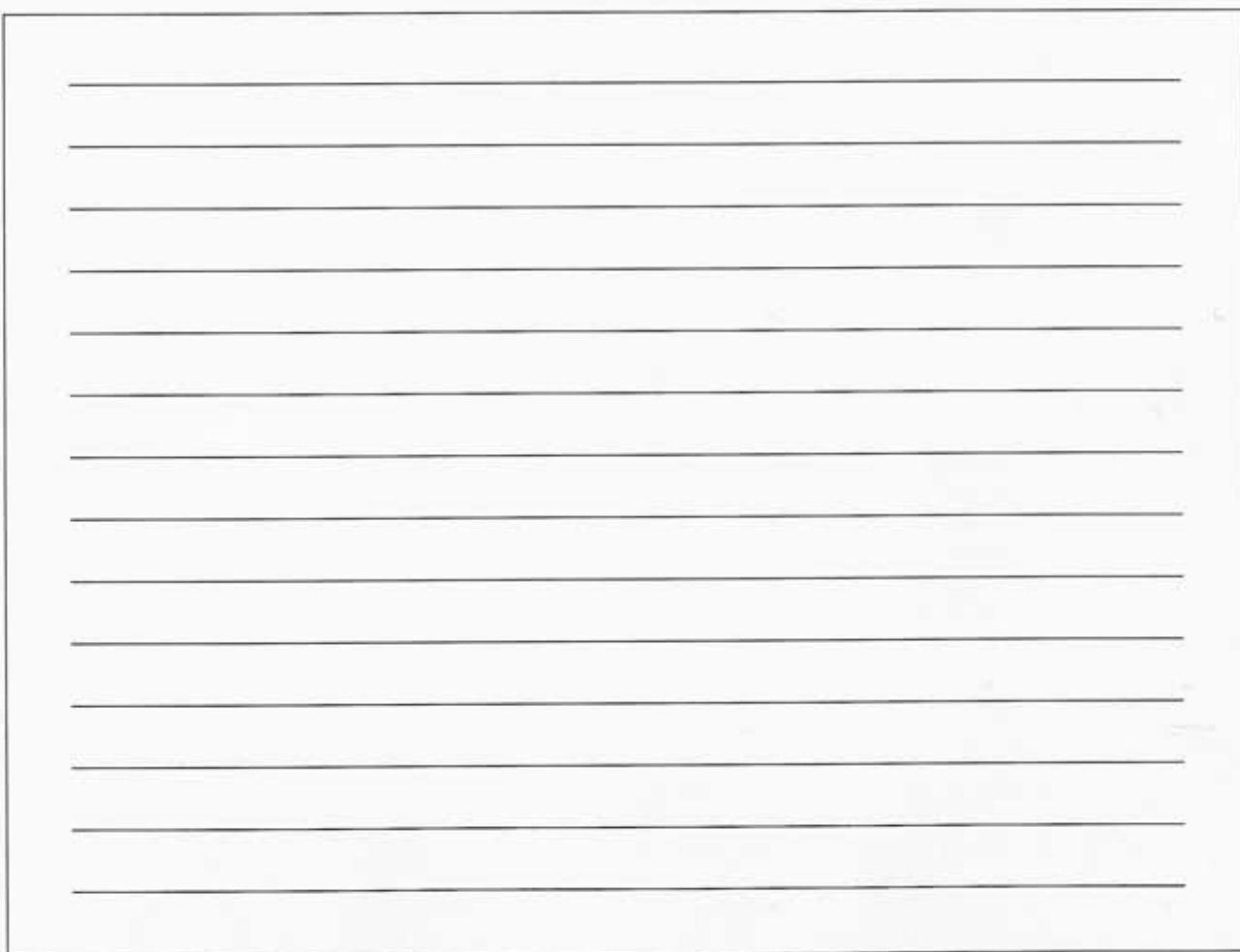


# Sooper Puppy: Words Can Hurt

Discuss the story with your child. Stress the fact that everyone gets angry at times, but we should all try not to hurt someone else's feelings when we are angry. Then help your child complete the activity below.

Do what Sooper Puppy did. Make a list of all the good things you know about yourself. Remember that Sooper Puppy said that you are one-of-a-kind terrific!

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, containing 15 horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the box.

Remember! When you feel angry or someone yells at you, do what Sooper Puppy does and talk to someone you trust, like your mom or your dad or your teacher, and see if they think it's true. Read over the list of good things about yourself on this page. You probably feel better already!



# Sooper Puppy: Words Can Hurt

## Theme

Preventing anger from spreading

## Background

Everyone has had their feelings hurt by someone else's words. With this videotape, children can learn the importance of self-esteem, understanding emotions, controlling "hurtful" anger, and respecting the feelings of other people. In this videotape, Baxter (also known as Sooper Puppy) has some tough times as he reacts angrily to someone else's hurtful words and, in turn, hurts another person. With Grandpaw's help, he achieves success as he learns to have consideration for others and to appreciate his individuality.

## Outcomes

Viewers will

- examine and understand emotions
- learn to share and express feelings without hurting others
- recognize the importance of respecting another person's feelings
- be able to apologize for hurting someone else's feelings
- discover how to learn and grow from mistakes
- realize how liking yourself can lead to success

## Before Viewing

Discuss how calling people names hurts their feelings. Use questions such as the following to get started:

1. How do people feel when someone calls them names or makes fun of them?
2. Have you ever done that to someone? Why did you do it? How did you feel while you said it? How did you feel afterward? Why?
3. Have you ever said something when you were angry that you were sorry about later? How do you think the person you said it to felt?
4. Why do you think people say hurtful things to each other?
5. Does it help to share your feelings with someone? Who could people share their feelings with?

6. Sometimes when people don't feel very good about themselves, it is easy for them to say or do dumb things. Have you ever seen this happen? How do you think people can feel better about themselves?

## After Viewing

Encourage discussion of the videotape, perhaps by using questions like these:

1. Why did Melissa call Baxter a "stupid dog"? Who was she really angry with?
2. Baxter fumbled his commands at puppy school because he was thinking about other things and not concentrating on what the teacher was saying. What was he thinking about? Why?
3. What happened when Baxter met Big John on his way home from school? Was Baxter really angry with him?
4. What would Jessica think about when she was all alone? Did Jessica like herself? How do you know?
5. The Kazooku bird showed Jessica how to make a sail for the sky ship. What was the sail made of?
6. What kind of compass did the Kazooku bird give Jessica? How did it work?
7. Grandpaw told Baxter to write all the good things about himself. What do you think Baxter wrote?
8. Make a list of all the great things that make you feel good about yourself. Remember, you are one of a kind!

## School Activity

- Write on the board and read aloud the saying, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names can never hurt me." Ask children whether they have heard this before and what it means. Discuss whether they think it is true. Invite them to illustrate the saying.

## Home Activities

Give each child a copy of Home Activities 21 and 22 to take home. Encourage families to carry out the activities with their children. It is not necessary to have children return the worksheets; they should not feel pressured if their families choose not to participate.

## Sooper Puppy: Words Can Hurt

Home Activity

21

To the Family from Your Child's Teacher:

We have seen a videotape called "Sooper Puppy: Words Can Hurt." It has helped us learn that it is important to share our feelings without hurting other people. Below is part of the story that your child will probably remember. In it, Sooper Puppy (whose real name is Baxter) has his feelings hurt when several others call him names. In turn, he yells at others. Grandpaw helps Baxter understand his feelings and how to handle them better. Read this part of the story aloud with your child. Encourage your child to tell you more about the videotape as you go along. Then go on to the activity on the following page.

"Hold on there a minute, young fellow!" Grandpaw said when he heard Baxter yell at Big John. "What was the meaning of that outburst?"

"He was mean to me first!" Baxter exclaimed.

"Hm," Grandpaw answered, "I heard him expressing some anger, but I certainly didn't hear him being mean. What's been going on?"

Baxter told Grandpaw how it started with his owner, Mr. Man, yelling at his daughter, Melissa. Then Melissa called Baxter a stupid dog when she gave him his food. Baxter felt terrible. Grandpaw said to Baxter, "She probably felt angry, but it probably didn't feel safe to show that to her father, so she found someone smaller she could pick on."

"You mean me?" Baxter exclaimed. Then he told Grandpaw how Grizzle yelled at him during puppy school. Grandpaw explained to Baxter that Grizzle "probably feels uncomfortable about being in the same school with a bunch of young pups, so he finds something different about you and makes nasty remarks in order to make himself feel a little better by making you feel a little worse. So then you're feeling angry and frustrated, and you turn around and say mean things to your good friend, Big John. When you say mean things to people because you're feeling hurt, don't you think it would hurt them, too?"

Baxter felt ashamed. He had to agree with Grandpaw. But Grandpaw helped Baxter feel better. "You can write down good things about yourself to help you remember," he said.