**By: Dr. Rita Littrell**



**Juliette Chooses a Pet:**

**Using a PACED Decision Making Model to Make a Good Decision**

**FOCUS:**

**Overview:**

In this activity, students learn about the PACED decision making model. Rosa uses this model as she decides what pet to get. In addition to learning this process to make decisions, students will learn what things they should consider when making a choice about a pet. Hopefully, through improved decisions, we can keep many animals out of shelters.

**Objectives:**

* Define the problem
* List alternatives
* Determine important criteria to considerC:\Users\amym\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LTPXUL87\MC900232045[1].wmf
* Evaluate alternatives
* Make a decision
* State the opportunity cost
* Have happier pet relationships

**Background Information:**

Students and their families can find pet ownership to be a very rewarding relationship. This is contingent upon the selection of a good pet for your life situation. In this activity, students use the PACED process to guide their decisions. It teaches them an analytical tool to use for any decision while helping them understand how to make a good decision in regards to pet selection.

**Curriculum Multi-tasking:**

* Group interaction and discussion
* Critical thinking
* Reading

**Grade Level:** 2 to 6

**Time Frame:** 1 class period

**PREPARE:**

**Materials:**

1. *How Much is the Doggie in the Window* book - optional
2. Juliette’s story
3. Copies of the attached decision grid

**Construct:**

1. Read Juliette’s story.
2. Print one decision grid for every three students.



**TEACH:**

**Introduction:**

Discuss pets and why we have them. Ask students to share why they like pets and what types of services animals provide for us. Responses could include companionship, playmate, guide services, and more.

Optional: Read *How Much is the Doggie in the Window* by Iza Trapani. It is a primary version of a boy who wants a dog from the pet store. He vows to earn the money to buy the dog but he experiences some complications that prevent him from achieving his goal. This story sets the stage for the activity. Discuss how the boy and the dog have a special relationship in this story.

**Activities:**

1. Read the story about Juliette to the class.
2. Ask students to identify the problem. (*Which pet should Rosa choose?*)
3. Tell students that they will help Juliette to make a good decision.
4. Group students into groups of three.
5. Distribute a decision grid to each group.
6. Have students write the problem at the top of the grid.
7. What are the alternatives or in this case, the pets that Rosa is considering? These include dog, cat, rabbit, fish, or bird. List these under the alternatives on the decision grid.
8. Ask students to share what they think is important to making a good decision about which pet is best for their situation. (cost of upkeep, initial price, space, time to play or exercise the animal, vet costs, spay or neuter, etc.)
9. Explain that these are the criteria. Criteria are the things that Rosa must consider when choosing a pet.
10. Now students are ready to evaluate each alternative. For grades one or two, you might prefer to use smiley faces if the pet meets the criterion. For older students, you can use a range of one to five, with five indicating that it meets the criterion the best.
11. Have students determine which pet has the highest value. This would be the best decision.
12. Also note the pet that was the second runner up or had the next highest value. This is the opportunity cost. The best decision would be the pet with the highest value and the opportunity cost would be the one with the next highest value – not all of the other alternatives.
13. Review with the students the steps to making a good decision: PACED

* Define the **P**roblem
* List **A**lternatives
* Determine **C**riteria
* **E**valuate the Alternatives
* Make a **D**ecision

1. Explain that there is not a correct answer. The answer is individual. It depends on a person’s preferences as well as their situation. They may not have space for a large dog. Their neighbors might be bothered by a loud bird. They may not be home enough to walk a dog. It also depends on how much enjoyment you would get from that pet.

**Closure:**

1. Explain that owning a pet is a big commitment. It is one that should not be taken lightly. Encourage students to share this process with their families and friends so we can keep more pets out of animal shelters and create happy and healthy pet/people relationships.
2. Discuss ways to cut costs on pet care such as get a pet from a rescue or animal shelter. Shop around for medications. Use a low cost spay and neuter clinic. Buy food in large quantities.

**Evaluation:**

**Performance Task:**

1. Assign students to write a paragraph describing their family situation and lifestyle. Have students write a second paragraph suggesting a good pet for themselves. The paragraph should include alternatives as well as criteria for making the decision.

**CONNECT:**

**Web:**

* http://www.petfinder.com/

**Extension:**

Invite the director of a local animal shelter to visit the class to talk about adopting pets from the shelter. Describe the process as well as the benefits. Explain how this helps the pets not to be euthanized. Discuss the value of chipping your cat or dog so that he/she can be returned to you.

**Juliette’s Quinceañera**

**Juliette woke to a beautiful spring day. The sun was streaming through the windows. The spring trees were budding out. Out her window she could see the purple tips of the redbud tree. Tulips were dancing in the garden breeze. It was the perfect spring Sunday. Today is Juliette’s fifteenth birthday. She wakes early than normal for a teenager but today she jumps out of bed and runs to the kitchen where her mother and grandmother are cooking. She is so excited! There will be a big quinceañera celebration at the park today. They will have a cookout with mole, beans and rice. ALL of her family and friends will be there. In the Hispanic culture, this is a very special day. Many Latin American cultures celebrate quinceañera. This special celebration marks the transition from childhood to young womanhood. The girls all dress nicely for the occasion. The guys usually wear cowboy boots and hats but they, too, have on their nice clothing.**

**Juliette has a gorgeous new dress to wear. Her grandmother worked for weeks to sew it for her. She used delicate lace with small pearls embedded in the collar and sleeves. She feels like a princess in that dress. Everyone will look at her and smile. Her mother will style her hair so it is fancy to match her dress. She has new jewelry given to her by her father.**

**After hours of games, laughter and chatting, it is time to open gifts. Juliette receives many gifts as this is the custom. They are not a wealthy family. Her father is a truck driver and her mother works in the school cafeteria. But this celebration is important to every fifteen year old. Guests bring jewelry, books, music or things that she would enjoy. She is very appreciative for each small thoughtful gift and sincerely thanks each person – muchas gracias. After opening the gifts, Rosa finds a card. It is from her mama and papa. She opens it. Inside there is a note that reads:**

**Our dearest Juliette. Today symbolizes the beginning of womanhood. You have developed into a very beautiful person. You are not only beautiful on the outside but, most importantly, on the inside. You are a kind and caring person. You see the needs of others and do what you can to help them. You are learning to cook and care for yourself. You are willing and able to help the family. You have shown great responsibility. Because of this, we believe it is time to give you something you have always wanted – your own pet. As your parents, we feel that you will be responsible in making the decision about which pet. You will consider the initial cost as well as the care for the pet. We are willing to pay up to $60 for the pet. You will need to earn the money for the food and other costs.**

**Juliette is very excited! She had always wanted a pet but did not ask as she knew it would be a burden on her family. Now she can get a pet which will become part of the family. How very exciting for her. Now, which pet should she choose? This would be a challenging decision. Rosa has three younger brothers. Her grandmother also lives with the family. She needs a pet that will get along with her brothers while not bothering her grandmother. They live in a small three bedroom house with a small yard. Juliette babysits for neighbor kids and earns as much as $20 per week. She will not want to spend all of her money on her pet, but she would be able to buy food and pay to take it to the vet for vaccinations.**

**Juliette begins to think of all the possibilities. Should she get a dog, or maybe a cat. Both of these make good companions. One of her teachers had a rabbit in the classroom at school. It was a fun pet. A friend had a goldfish. Juliette had been surprised at how the goldfish would communicate with and respond to her friend, Rosa. And of course, her family in Mexico had a parakeet. It was not only beautiful; it would be a friend and chat with you. Teaching it to talk would be great fun. This was going to be on tough decision! Her brothers would enjoy a frolicking and fun pet. But her grandmother would prefer something that was not too loud and rambunctious. And then her parents would prefer something that did not make a big mess or cause a lot of interruptions to family life.**

**Pet Needs Information:**

**Dog:**

**Needs:** Veterinary check-up, initial shots and shots every year following. Dog bowls for food and water. Dog collar with a tag, and a leash to keep up with them! Flea and tick medicine, and heart-worm medicine.

**Food:** A protein rich dog food from your local pet store. Cost for basic food for one year: $250.

**Maintenance:** Feeding everyday twice a twice a day. Heart-worm and flea and tick medicine once a month. Taking them out multiple times a day for exercise and play.

**Cat:**

Needs: Veterinary check-up, initial shots and shots every year following. Cat bowls for food and water. A cat collar. Kitty litter, a pan and a scoop. Scratching post. Flea and tick medicine, and heart-worm medicine.

**Food:** A protein rich cat food from your local pet store. Cost for food $145

**Maintenance:** Feeding everyday twice a day. Heart-worm and flea and tick medicine once a month. Cleaning out the litter box regularly. Litter $75 per year.

**Rabbit:**

**Needs:** Large cage equipped with bedding and nesting materials, things for them to chew on. A water spout, and a feed dish. Toys. A veterinary check up.

**Food:** Hay and fortified feed pellets. Cost for food $100.

**Maintenance:** Feeding and changing water every day. Regular veterinary visits. Cleaning out the cage regularly. Socializing with your rabbit frequently. Litter $80 per year.

**Fish:**

**Needs:** Large fish tank equipped with a temperature moderator, a filtration system, air system, lighting, gravel, a hiding place (like a castle), live plants.

**Food:** Fish food from your local pet store. Cost is $60 a year.

**Maintenance:** Daily feeding. Tank cleaning once a week.

**Bird:**

**Needs:** Large cage equipped with a cuttlebone, a food and water dish and swings. Toys and ropes. Lots of newspaper. Cage cover for night time.

**Food:** Suet (a mixture of fat and seeds), and fresh vegetables. Cost is $30 per year.

**Maintenance:** Cage cleaning regularly (daily), daily feeding and water changing. Covering their cage at night. Shavings cost is $50 per year.

**Name**

**Decision-making Grid**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MCj01571970000[1]  alternatives | http://scm-l3.technorati.com/svmoms/svmomblog.typepad.com/.a/6a00d83451bae269e20133eccc22fd970b-200wi.pnghttp://cl.jroo.me/z3/a/3/I/d/a.aaa-cool-dollar-sign.jpgcriteria  **Companion** | | | | net value |
| http://assets.nydailynews.com/polopoly_fs/1.1063179.1334701803!/img/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_635/companion20f-1-web.jpg  **Noise** | http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSk6R-NrmgxmV4HbasWvWWBBvZ0gT8laV33VE6wbHeH_2lYlH3S | **Playful** | **Cost** |
| MPj03143920000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |
| MPj03144010000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |
| MPj03144080000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |
| http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/dremesov/dremesov0709/dremesov070900108/1777358-tropical-fish-isolated-on-white-background--vector.jpg |  |  |  |  |  |
| MPj03144050000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |

**Name**

**Decision-making Grid Example**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MCj01571970000[1]  alternatives | http://scm-l3.technorati.com/svmoms/svmomblog.typepad.com/.a/6a00d83451bae269e20133eccc22fd970b-200wi.pnghttp://cl.jroo.me/z3/a/3/I/d/a.aaa-cool-dollar-sign.jpgcriteria  **Companion** | | | | net value |
| http://assets.nydailynews.com/polopoly_fs/1.1063179.1334701803!/img/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_635/companion20f-1-web.jpg  **Noise** | http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSk6R-NrmgxmV4HbasWvWWBBvZ0gT8laV33VE6wbHeH_2lYlH3S | **Playful** | **Cost** |
| MPj03143920000[1] |  |  |  |  | 2 |
| MPj03144010000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |
| MPj03144080000[1] |  |  |  |  | 3 |
| http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/dremesov/dremesov0709/dremesov070900108/1777358-tropical-fish-isolated-on-white-background--vector.jpg |  |  |  |  |  |
| MPj03144050000[1] |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Define problem: *Which pet to choose?*** | | | | | | |
| **Determine Criteria** | **Fun for family** | **Companion** | **Grandma friendly** | **Ongoing**  **Cost** | **Care** | **Evaluate Alternatives** |
| **Alternatives:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03143920000[1]Dog** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03144010000[1]Cat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03144050000[1]Parakeet** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/dremesov/dremesov0709/dremesov070900108/1777358-tropical-fish-isolated-on-white-background--vector.jpgFish** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03144080000[1]Rabbit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Decision:** |  | | **Opportunity Cost:** | |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Define problem: *Which pet to choose?*** (Example) | | | | | | |
| **Determine Criteria** | **Fun for family** | **Companion** | **Grandma friendly** | **Ongoing**  **Cost** | **Care** | **Evaluate Alternatives** |
| **Alternatives:** | **1-5**  (5 high) | **1-5**  (5 high) | **1-5**  (5 high) | **1-5**  (5 high) | **1-5**  (5 high) |  |
| **MPj03143920000[1]Dog** | **5** | **5** | **2** | **1** | **2** | **15** |
| **MPj03144010000[1]Cat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03144050000[1]Parakeet** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/dremesov/dremesov0709/dremesov070900108/1777358-tropical-fish-isolated-on-white-background--vector.jpg Fish** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MPj03144080000[1]Rabbit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Decision:** |  | | **Opportunity Cost:** | |  | |