

## **There's A Dog In My Classroom Workshop Ideas**

### **To Support Literacy Skills**

- Weekly reading logs
- Make your therapy dog the star of a story
- Meet reading fluency goals
- Research projects
- Letter recognition by playing Hang Man and the dog "speaks" when the students Guess/write the correct letter
- Trading Card lesson for characterization, organizing information and summarizing
- Read first draft of writing to the dog to encourage self-editing
- Provide motivation and active engagement in Reading/Writing/Speaking/Listening
- Nonjudgmental/positive literacy experiences to build self-confidence
- Vocabulary development
- Address IEP goals
- Address grade appropriate Common Core Standards
- Create a blog about the therapy dog
- Set up an email account for the therapy dog
- Make a Facebook page with the handler all about the therapy dog
- "Dress Rehearsal" with the dog prior to giving oral reports, performances and presentations
- Create KWL and KWLS graphic organizers about the therapy dog

### **To Support Math Skills**

- Practice math facts with the therapy dog
- Give dog scenarios for problem-solving practice
- Fractions with the therapy dog
- Measurement
- Math probes
- Estimating lessons using the therapy dog
- Have students create problems for each other about the therapy dog
- Money skills to determine how much it costs to own a dog
- Measuring ingredients to make dog treats
- Survey class about their family pets and graph the results

## **To Support Behavior Goals**

- Incentive/ Reward system
- Earn minutes with the therapy dog
- Reward students by letting them walk the dog and handler to and from the office
- Defuse disruptions/confrontations with calming their presence
- Increase student engagement in lessons
- Provides a safe, non-judgmental listener
- Counseling
  - Working with anxious students
  - Emotional support classrooms
  - Tolerance and acceptance
- Social communication
  - Turn-taking
  - Ask/Answer questions
  - Greetings
  - Commenting

## **To Support Other Subject Areas**

- Provide authentic communication opportunities
- Content area vocabulary development
- Research the history of your dog's breed and map it as part of a Geography lesson
- Provide motivation to meet grade level Common Core standards for Speaking
- Discuss/research and create a model of your therapy dog's habitat as part of a Science lesson
- Discuss/research working dogs as part of a Social Studies lesson
- Practice reading fluency with ELL students
- Practice presentations/prepare for shows
- Provide non-judgmental listener for students learning to speak English
- Create bulletin board displays highlighting lessons with the therapy dog