

5

EDDIE AND THE PUPPIES

Warm Up

Are you fond of animals?

Do you have a pet at home?

Have you ever held a baby animal?

Be gentle in your actions, voice and tone



Eddie was ten years old. He loved animals and had a pet dog called Lizzy.

Eddie was excited as Lizzy had just delivered puppies. He came to his mother, who was sitting next to Lizzy and the puppies.

“Mum! Can I hold Lizzy’s puppies?” he shouted.

The pups were startled at the loud noise.

“Talk softly, Eddie, or the pups will get frightened,” said Eddie’s mother.



I will place the puppies on your lap. Eddie sat down and stretched his hands. Eddie’s mother put a puppy in his hands. He took it and started cuddling it. Suddenly, the puppy started whimpering and shivering. His mother took the puppy to see what happened. The puppy was not able to move its right hind leg properly.

“What happened, Mum?” Eddie asked.

“I think you pressed the puppy’s leg too hard while cuddling it. We will ask your father to check it when he comes home from work.”



Eddie’s father was a veterinary doctor.

“I hope he is fine, Mum,” said Eddie in a small voice. He was very worried.

“You need to be gentler when you handle the puppies,” said Mum and made a phone call to Eddie’s father. Eddie’s father came home immediately and checked the puppy.

“Nothing to worry about. There is a small injury but no bone is broken or fractured. The puppy will be completely fine by tomorrow,” he said. Then he called Eddie to him and said, “You have to be very gentle with animals, otherwise they will get hurt or scared.”

“Yes, Dad,” said Eddie, looking sad.

You might not be ready to handle the little puppies just yet. Let's first learn how to be gentle and careful with your toys and books. Handle them with care. Let's have a look at your room together."



Eddie and his father proceeded to Eddie's room. "See your toy plane. One of its wings is broken. Your storybooks are all torn. Your Spiderman doll's arm is missing. All your toys have some damage or the other." said Eddie's dad, pointing out to the damages.

"But Dad," said Eddie, "I don't mean to break them. It happens because I am too strong."

"Eddie, my boy, you can be gentle even if you are strong." said his father

"How is it possible Dad?" asked Eddie.

"See Lizzy for example. She has sharp teeth and her bite is painful. But she gently picks up her small puppies with her teeth and they don't have even have a little scratch." explained his father.



“Wow! I never thought of that,” said Eddie.

He and his father went back to the living room.

“How do I become gentle?” asked Eddie.

Eddie’s father thought for a while and then said, “Eddie, think of it like this. You are a machine. When you are on full power, you use your full strength. Then you can become too rough. Reduce the power to half, when you do or say anything. Just apply the required amount of power to do the job. When you speak, reduce your power, then you will automatically speak softer. Be conscious of your tone. Then you can become gentle and careful.”

“Okay Dad! I will practise that,” said Eddie. “May I touch the puppies now, please? I can practice using half of my power!”

His father smiled and said, “Fine. Put your machine on half power.”

“Whirr,” Eddie made a sound.

“Done? Let’s go,” said Eddie’s father. Then they went to see Lizzy and her puppies.

Eddie made a conscious effort to be gentle with the puppies. He reduced his tone and spoke softer. The puppies were soon fond of Eddie.

WORD WALL

Startled: Showed sudden shock

Whimpering: Making sounds of pain or fear

Think and Answer

I. Fill in the blanks.

1. The puppy got hurt because Eddie
(hit/cuddled) it a little too hard.
2. Eddie's father told Eddie to be
(gentle/rough) with his toys.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the puppies get scared?
.....
.....
2. What did Eddie's father tell him to practise?
.....
.....

Activity A: Where are my gentle hands?



Here are a few situations. Your teacher will call one student to enact each situation. When you get a chance, first show what you do when you are on FULL POWER (rough). Then show how you can do the same thing on HALF POWER (gentle).

1. Taking a toy from another person
2. Playing with the toy
3. Using crayons or sketch pens to colour
4. Petting an animal
5. Calling a friend using your hands
6. Holding a baby
7. Holding a baby animal like a kitten or puppy
8. Plucking flowers from a bush
9. Holding and turning the pages of a book
10. Opening your bottle and drinking water

Activity B: Where is my gentle voice?

It is also important to be gentle when talking so that you don't disturb others. Sometimes a gentle tone can also prevent a fight. When should you use a gentle voice or tone? When can you use a normal tone? Discuss with your teacher and practise the appropriate tone for each of these situations.





1. You are calling out to your friend on the playground, “Hey, Rishi! Come here!”



2) You are talking to a friend as you pet a small kitten, “The kitten has got such small ears!”



3) You want to pass a pencil to your friend who is sitting at the other end of the table in the library. You say, “Please pass this pencil to Ali.”



4) Someone is shouting at you angrily. You want to tell him to stop shouting. What tone would you use?



5) Your brother is studying in the living room. You want to talk to your father who is also sitting there. You say, “Dad! Can I talk to you now?”

Activity C: Full Power or Half Power?

Here are some situations. For each situation, draw an arrow to show when to use FULL POWER or HALF POWER in your tone or action. The first one has been done as an example.



1. You hold your grandmother to help her walk.



2. You call out to your mother in a busy shop.



3. You are playing with your friend's toy.



4. Your younger sister is sitting on the swing and you are pushing it.



5. You are carrying a pot full of rice to keep on the table.

Let's Remember

Let us be gentle in our actions, voice and tone.

My Space

What I liked most about this lesson:

.....
.....

I learnt that

.....
.....



- 1. Explain to your parents/family members/guardians when you plan to use your FULL POWER and when you plan to use HALF POWER in your actions and talk.*
- 2. You can show your parents/family members/guardians how you learnt to speak softly and sweetly. Do it as a daily practice.*