

Animal Telephone

Objective: Students will stay away from animal situations where noise levels are high.

Concept: Noise levels from animals, especially in highly populated areas, can be very loud and damaging to the ears if prolonged exposure occurs. There are also times when animals are excessively loud, such as during loading and unloading. Children need to understand the importance of staying away from these situations so hearing is not damaged.

Targeted Age: Preschool and elementary

ACTIVITY 1

Materials: Cotton balls

This activity is played like the old telephone game. First, form a circle. As the leader, start a saying or slogan at the beginning of the circle. Say the message only once to each person.

Use slogans that are appropriate to the lesson like:

- ▶ Animals can be very large, so stay outside the animal fence.
- ▶ Stay outside the animal's fence if you are feeding livestock.
- ▶ Approach an animal quietly and put your hand on the animal so he knows you're there.

As the message is passed from student to student, try to be as concise as possible without letting anyone else hear. Have the last student tell what she thinks the message was.

Now have everyone put cotton in their ears and repeat the activity, using a different message. Have the last student tell what he thinks the message was.

Discuss the difference between the two times the activity was done. How is loss of hearing effected by exposure to loud noises even while you are young.

Q: What causes hearing loss?

A: Most hearing loss takes place when the outer hair cells are damaged. Hearing loss is caused by two factors, the loudness and the time spent in loud surroundings. A younger person can begin to lose their hearing and not realize it until they are older.

Q: What would you miss if you could not hear well.

A: Ability to communicate. Ability to enjoy music. Hearing warning signals, which impacts your safety.

ACTIVITY 2

Materials:

- ▶ 35mm film container
- ▶ Ear plugs
- ▶ Paper
- ▶ Markers
- ▶ Tape
- ▶ Cord

To emphasize prevention of hearing loss, have students make ear plug containers for someone in their family. Collect 35mm film containers. Purchase or ask for donations of ear plugs. Have the students write a slogan, such as "please wear these in loud places so you can hear me say "I love you." Place the ear plugs in the film containers and attach a cord. Suggest the students take them home and ask their father/mother/grandfather to place them in the barn or hog confinement building.

