

Fussy Ferret

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



The Fussy Ferret: (Whining/Consequences)

This story portrays the “realistic” consequences (in our imaginary animal world) of childish behaviors we see in almost all children.

You may let your child’s whining and fussing annoy you to the point that you do not require them to do important tasks or you do it for them. But what if they continue into adulthood? The negative consequences are obvious in our story and so are obvious in the real-life problems of adults that were allowed to be “Fussy Ferrets”.

Fussy Ferret Lesson Plan

A. Main Focus:

Sometimes a child's fussing and whining can annoy us into doing things for them. But what if this fussy and whiny behavior continues?

B. The Main Concepts:

Learning the skills necessary to be happy and successful will take time and effort.

But by being a "Fussy Ferret", others may get tired of the effort of helping you with these skills and you will miss out on learning these skills

You will notice that others are willing to do the difficult, scary and boring things that it will take to learn these "Happiness and Success Skills"

In time, others will move on and you may regret the time you have wasted "Fussing your life away".

C. Teach the Defining Terms to The Students

D. Listen to the Flip Book Story

E. Sample Dialogue with Students after Listening to the Story

Cosmos Crow notices that a family of ferrets have made their summer home at the base of tree where he lives. He is able to observe the ferrets throughout the summer and makes some interesting observations.

How many ferrets are there in this family? (There is a mother ferret and her four young ferrets.)

As with most parents in the animal world, the mother ferret spends much of her time trying to teach her four youngsters important life lessons.

What is the first thing that she tries to teach them? (The first thing she knows they need to learn is about finding their own food.)

Did Cosmos think that she taught the lesson well? (Yes, Cosmos said, she did a good job teaching the lesson.)

Then she told her four youngsters to go out into the woods and practice what they had been taught. But what did one of the young ferrets do? (One of the young ferrets fussed, “I don’t want to go out into the woods looking for food, it is too hot and I might get lost.”)

His mother tried to help him but he kept fussing, “There are three others and they can find plenty enough food for all of us including me.” This young ferret was wanting his brothers and sisters to get food for him. Do you think that is a good idea?

Cosmos said that this ferret’s mother was very patient and tried explaining the importance of this skill. But the young ferret said he would learn when? (“Oh I will learn, but not right now, maybe when it’s cooler.”)

This sounds a little like an excuse to me. This ferret decided he did not need to learn now because it was “too hot”.

What does Cosmos name this young ferret? (“Fussy Ferret”)

The mother ferret continued teaching the youngsters that were willing to learn and practice and stopped spending so much time encouraging the Fussy Ferret. Do you think that she was being mean to him?

How did Fussy Ferret feel about mom not pushing him to learn things? (“The Fussy Ferret seemed happy because he only did what he wanted to do, and did not care about the lesson his mother might be teaching that day.”)

Do you think Fussy Ferret thought about what may happen if he does not learn these tasks? (No, he only thought about not having to do it now)

As the story continues, the mother keeps teaching the three ferrets willing to learn while the Fussy Ferret only does what he wants to do.

As winter approaches, the mother ferret explains to all four children that they must each find their own place to live, far away from each other. Why far away from each other? (So they can find enough food to survive the winter. If they live too close together then they will be fighting over the same food)

But how did Fussy Ferret feel about living far from his family? (Fussy Ferret refuses to leave the family burrow.)

Cosmos says that “His fussing got him what he wanted; not having to learn to find food, to build a home or even how to keep clean.” But was this a good thing?

Most of us understand that our teachers, parents, older brothers and sisters are usually trying to help us to be successful as we grow up, when they explain the we have to do this or that. They are not trying to be mean to us. It probably would have been easier for them to just do what they want us to do themselves, rather than teaching us to do it. But because they care about us, they make us learn to do it.”