

Ratty Teaches Kids How to

SHARE THE WORLD

Many elementary school teachers use stuffed animals to make their lessons hands-on, interactive, and fun for young learners—and as former teachers ourselves, we at TeachKind fully support this smart classroom practice! So meet Ratty, a soft and cuddly plush rat that you can use with your students along with the activities in the Share the World curriculum kit (which you can download for free at [ShareTheWorld.org](https://www.sharetheworld.org)) to inspire compassion and empathy for *real* animals.

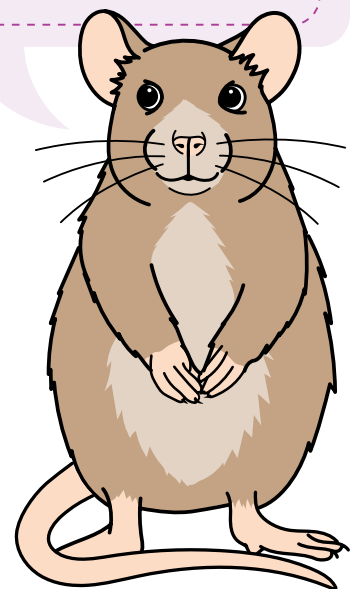
Share the World is perfect for teaching elementary school students the Golden Rule and the importance of having compassion and empathy for everyone, no matter their species. Although your students may be familiar with dogs, cats, birds, squirrels, and other animals they see around their neighborhoods, they may not know how fascinating rats are and why they—along with *all* other sentient beings—deserve kindness and respect. Ratty will inspire your students to see even the smallest, most unfamiliar animals as individuals worthy of consideration, and that empathy will extend to others, including their peers.

Here are just some of the engaging ways you can integrate Ratty into your lessons on kindness for all:

- ♥ Start by introducing Ratty to your students. You can say something like “Ratty is going to help teach us how to be kind to *all* animals, and he’ll be here to remind us about this when we need it.” Explain that rats love to snuggle with each other and with their

Bringing real animals into the classroom—as “pets,” to be used in life-cycle or other science lessons, or for any other purpose—is problematic for many reasons.

Learn more at [TeachKind.org/NoClassroomPets](https://www.teachkind.org/no-classroom-pets).



human guardians and that they often cuddle up together to sleep. They appreciate a massage, a scratch behind the ears, or a tickle—and they even giggle! Your students would likely love to create a soft and cozy bed for Ratty in your classroom and when they take him home to spend time with their families. Share the World presents more fascinating facts about animals that kids might not know, including that crows play in the snow by sliding down rooftops and that mother chickens sing to their chicks before they hatch.

♥ Start a conversation about the similarities between Ratty and humans. Guide students in a group conversation about how, like humans, he has two eyes, two ears, and a nose. Point out that he may look different from us in other ways but that we're the same in all the ways that matter most: We all want to live, do the things that make us happy, and spend time with our families. Share the World has lessons to help kids see how other animals are like us, which fosters the development of critical social skills like empathy and perspective-taking.

♥ Allow students to take turns taking Ratty home for the weekend. Challenge them to do something kind for an animal with him, like feeding their dog or cat and refilling their water bowl or picking up litter in an outdoor area to protect wildlife. Have students write a sentence or two about their kind actions to share with their classmates the following week—they could even share photos of their adventures with Ratty. Be sure to check out the lessons in the How You Can Help Animals section of Share the World, which teach kids to consider the needs and feelings of animals they come into contact with.



♥ You can also celebrate students' birthdays or good behavior by allowing them to "care" for Ratty during free time, encourage students to read aloud to him during independent reading time, or make him your classroom mascot to educate curious kids from other classes and even your colleagues about how interesting rats are!

READY TO MAKE
RATTY
A PART OF YOUR
CLASSROOM?

E-mail us at Info@TeachKind.org
for more information.



Show us how Ratty inspires kindness to other animals! Post pics on social media using [#RattySharesTheWorld](https://twitter.com/RattySharesTheWorld).

HI! I'M RATTY!

I'm so excited to spend time with you and your family.

At school, we learn that it's never OK to bully others, including our classmates, our siblings, and the other animals we share the world with. We don't all look or behave the same, and that's what makes each of us special.



Bring me along as you and your child do kind things for animals. Take some photos and have your child write a sentence or two about each activity so they can share these things with their classmates. Here are some ideas:

- ♥ Feed your dog or cat and refill their water bowl.
- ♥ Pick up litter in an outdoor area to help protect wildlife.
- ♥ Spot a bug in your home? Don't squish them—rescue them with a small cup and a sturdy piece of paper, and then return them to the outdoors. For instructions, visit TeachKind.org/InsectRescue.
- ♥ Help protect birds from crashing into your windows by cutting shapes (like leaves) out of dark pieces of paper and taping them to each window.
- ♥ Get creative and think of other ways to help animals. Just remember never to feed wild animals or remove them from their natural habitat.

Thanks for being kind!

Love,

Ratty

