

# Fluttershy Parent Guide



**In celebration of International Friendship Day on July 30th, you can help your child make their mark on the world through friendship and service.**

International Friendship Day focuses on the power and importance of friendship—just like the characters do in **My Little Pony**. Did you know that each pony represents an Element of Harmony that helps a child be a good friend? Pinkie Pie represents laughter, Fluttershy represents kindness, Applejack represents honesty, Rainbow Dash represents loyalty, Rarity represents generosity and Twilight Sparkle represents the magic of friendship!

These elements are key to building strong, caring, empathetic young people who are able to give to their friends and their communities.

Research suggests that the seeds of empathy, caring, and compassion are present early in life, but that children need the help of adults to grow into caring, ethical people<sup>1</sup>. Volunteer service is a practical, easy, and fun way for you to help your child practice caring, giving and friendship and to teach them why it's important to help others and how they can make

a difference. Volunteering will benefit your child as they grow-up. Young people who volunteer have shown "greater respect for others, leadership skills, and an understanding of citizenship that can carry over into adulthood."<sup>2</sup>

With help from Fluttershy, you can teach your child about the importance of kindness while demonstrating how to be a friend to animals.

Inside this guide there are 'ideas to chat about' to help your child understand more about why it's important to care for animals. See the detailed steps to complete the project, plus supplemental reading that can help bring some of these difficult concepts to life.

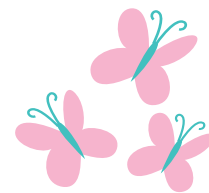
After your child has completed their project, come back and tell us what they've done! By posting a photo and brief story, your child will receive a My Little Pony poster!

**Visit [generationOn.org/mlp](http://generationOn.org/mlp) to learn more and share your story.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://sites.gse.harvard.edu/making-caring-common/parents/strategies-tips>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=volunteering>

# The Issue of Animal Welfare



Fluttershy has a kind heart and a unique gift with animals. Her sweetness and sincerity can charm every animal – from tiny woodland creature to powerful mythical beast! Like Fluttershy, your child and their friends can show kindness to animals by making ‘Adopt Me’ or ‘Love Me’ bandanas for animals living in shelters!

## Did you know?

Animals are an important part of every society. Some animals, like dogs, help people with limited vision live independent lives. And, of course, pets are important members of our families and some of our best friends. But did you know that some animals are in need because they are lost, abandoned, or never had a home? Only 1 out of every 10 dogs born will find a permanent home.<sup>3</sup> Animal shelters provide food, safety, and medical care. They also help animals find new homes.

### What your child will learn

- How to help animals, particularly those without homes
- How to make “giving back” an everyday habit

### Who you'll be helping

- Animals without homes or your own pets!

## Ideas to chat about

Use these conversation starters to help children gain a better understanding of this issue.

**1** What are some ways you could help animals who are lost or abandoned?

**2** Why is it important to help protect and provide homes for animals?

**3** What else can we do to help?

## Suggested reading:

### A Home for Nathan by Finn Rizer

This story follows a young unwanted cat while he is cared for at an animal shelter, and finally adopted into a home that he deserves.

### Fluttershy and the Fine Furry Friends Fair by G.M. Berrow

In this book, Fluttershy is shocked to discover that her pet bunny wants to enter an annual herding contest. She agrees to train him, but their first practice is a disaster. Fluttershy is too afraid of failure to continue, until all her friends bring something special to help out. This story teaches children about helping your friends and pets when they need you most.



# Project Instructions: make an 'adopt me' or 'love me' bandana.

Help your child make an 'adopt me' or 'love me' bandana for a homeless dog or cat living in a local animal shelter. Don't have animal shelter near-by? Teach your child the importance of being kind to animals by helping them make a 'love me' bandana for their own pet!

## What you need:

- Bandanas
- Fabric markers
- Fluttershy stencil

## Steps:

- Call your local animal shelter and make sure they would be willing to accept the bandanas and ask them how many they could use
- Gather your child and his/her friends and help them decorate the bandanas with fabric markers. Encourage them to be creative! Make sure they write 'adopt me' or 'love me' on the bandanas
- Download and print this Fluttershy stencil to help your child decorate the bandana!
- After the bandanas are finished, take them to the animal shelter, bring your child and his/her friends along so they can meet the animals they are helping
- If you don't have a shelter near-by, have your child tie a 'love me' bandana around his/her own furry friend



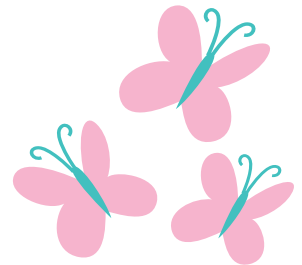
Bandanas



Fabric markers



Fluttershy stencil



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## WHO IS GENERATIONON?

generationOn is the youth service division of Points of Light, igniting the power of kids and teens to make their mark on the world. generationOn inspires, equips and mobilizes hundreds of thousands of kids and teens annually to take action through service, service learning and youth leadership initiatives. It also provides tools and resources to kids, teens, families, youth practitioners and educators to help kids change the world and themselves through service. For more information, visit [www.generationon.org](http://www.generationon.org)