

Helps and Hints

Family Child Care Newsletter

**Arkansas State
University**

Childhood Services

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Inside this issue:

Art & Creativity

Sing, Song, Sway

Infant & Toddler Activities

Math & Manipulatives

Science

Blocks

Dramatic Play

Language Arts

And much more!

A Kid's Best Friend

Just like children pets come in a variety of shapes, colors and species. Pretending to be a dog or cat is one of the favorite themes children develop in their play. Explore the world of pets with your children for some meaningful and fun learning.



Upcoming Events...

**FDCERS Rating Scale Training for
ABC Family Child Care Programs**

July 28, 2006

Little Rock

*DHHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Call your Data Specialist to enroll!*

AND...

Don't forget to watch for:

FDCERS Training Coming to Your Area this Fall!

Training Opportunities will be Announced Soon!

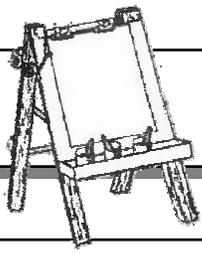
Visit us online at <http://chs.astate.edu>

Parent Involvement

Send home a letter or newsletter informing parents of the pet theme. Ask parents to write down any special stories they have about pets their children or family have owned. Ask parents to volunteer to come in and tell a pet story to the children.

Ask parents if they would be willing to bring small pets to the facility to share with the children.





Art & Creativity

Benchmarks:
Creative/Aesthetic Learning
Expression Through Art Forms and Activities 2.10-2.12

MY PET PICTURES

Materials:

Collage materials

Art supplies

Cardstock, construction paper, plain paper



Ask children to make illustrations or create collage representations of their pet. If they do not have a pet, encourage them to represent the pet they would like to have or choose a pet they have played with at a friend's or relative's home.

PET PUPPET

Materials:

Lunch bags, collage materials, art supplies

Give children the opportunity to create a pet puppet.

Turtle Puppet

Paint a paper plate to resemble a turtle's top shell and paint another plate for the bottom shell. Staple or glue green construction paper legs on either plate. Sandwich a green sock between the painted plates so that the toe sticks out for the head and the top of the sock sticks out the back for the tail. Staple the two plates together on both sides, add eyes, and slip your hand into the sock.

Paper Bowl Turtles

Turn bowl upside down and paint green, let dry. Cut out front and back feet from brown construction paper. Staple to bowl. Cut out head with neck and draw on face, staple to bowl.



Jumping Frogs

Take a green circle and fold not quite in half. Don't fold all the way down. Then add two white ovals for eyes on top of the fold. Add a dot in the middle and for a tongue glue a half-oval shape to the bottom of the top flap. Then add green accordion strips for legs.



Sing, Song, Sway

Benchmarks:

Creative/Aesthetic

Expression through Art Forms and Activities 2.4-2.9

Language Arts: 5.5

(How Much Is) That Doggie in the Window?

(Chorus)

How much is that doggie in the window? (Bark! Bark!)

The one with the waggly tail.

How much is that doggie in the window (Bark! Bark!)

I do hope that doggie's for sale!

I must take a trip to California
And leave my poor sweetheart alone
If he has a dog he won't be lonesome
And the doggie will have a good home.

(Chorus)

I read in the paper there are robbers
With flashlights that shine in the dark
My love needs a doggie to protect him
And scare them away with one bark.

I don't want a bunny or a kitty
I don't want a parrot that talks,
I don't want a bowl or little fishies;
He can't take a goldfish for walks.

Chorus





Sing, Song, Sway

Two Little Puppy Dogs

Two little puppy dogs
(hold up two fingers)
Lying in a heap,
(let two fingers fall down.)
Soft and Wooly
(pet two fingers with opposite hand.)
And fast asleep.
(lay hands against the side of your face and close eyes.)
Along came a pussycat
(hold up one finger from opposite hand and move toward the two little fingers.)
Creeping near,
"Meow", She cried right in their ear.
Two little puppy dogs
(hold up two fingers)
After one cat,
(two fingers chase the one finger).
Did you ever play tag like that?
(point to the children)



This Little Doggie

(Start by holding up five fingers.)
This little doggie ran away to play. (take one finger away)
This little doggie said, "I'll go too some day." (take next finger away.)
This little doggie began to dig and dig. (pretend to dig with next finger, then take it away.)
This little doggie danced a funny jig. (pretend to dance with next finger, then take it away.)
This little doggie cried, "Ki! Yi! Ki! Yi! I wish I were big." (take last finger away.)



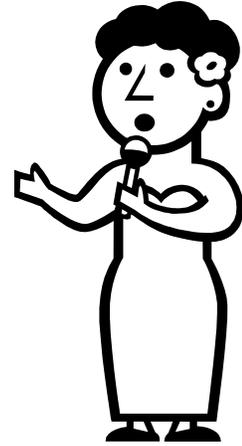


Sing, Song, Sway

One Little Kitten Finger Play

(This fingerplay would also make a good felt board story)

One little cat in the corner,
Washing her cute little face;
One little cat comes to catch her;
Two little cats run a race!
Two little cats in the corner,
Trying to round up a mouse!
One cat comes in from the barnyard;
Three little cats in the house!
Three little cats on the doorstep,
Warming themselves in the sun;
One cat comes up from the cellar;
Four little cats having fun!
Four little cats by the window,
Watching the stars twinkle bright,
One cat jumps out of the basket;
Five little cats say goodnight!
(count rhyme out with fingers)



This Kitty

(Start by holding up all 5 fingers. At each line take one away. On the last line have the final finger run through a hole made by the left hand.)

This kitty said, "I smell a mouse,"
This kitty said, "Let's hunt through the house."
This kitty said, "Let's go creepy creep."
This kitty said, "Is the mouse asleep?"
This kitty said, "Meow, meow, I saw him go through This hole just now."

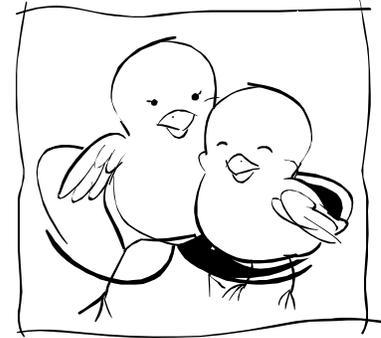




Sing, Song, Sway

My Puppy

My puppy has a doghouse,
just outside my door.
He licks me when I pet him,
and wags his tail for more.
He's always there beside me,
no matter what I do.
My puppy is my special friend,
and a family member, too.



My Pets

I have 5 pets that I'd like you to meet
They all live with me on Mulberry Street (Hold up 1 hand)
This is my chicken, the smallest of all
He comes a-running whenever I call (Point to little finger)
This is my duckling. He says, Quack, Quack, Quack
As he shakes the water from off his back. (next finger)
Here is my rabbit. He runs from his pen.
Then I must put him back in it again (middle finger)
This is my kitten. Her coat's black and white.
She loves to sleep on a pillow at night. (index finger)
Here is my puppy who has lots of FUN!!!!(thumb)
He chases the others and makes them run. (move thumb slowly and fingers rapidly.)

My Puppy

I like to pat my puppy
(make puppy with one fist, pat)
He has such nice soft fur
(pat puppy)
And if I don't pull his tail
(pull tail)
He won't say "GrrrR!"
(make angry face)



Sing, Song, Sway

Soft Kitty

(Make a fist of left hand for kitty, and pet the kitty.)

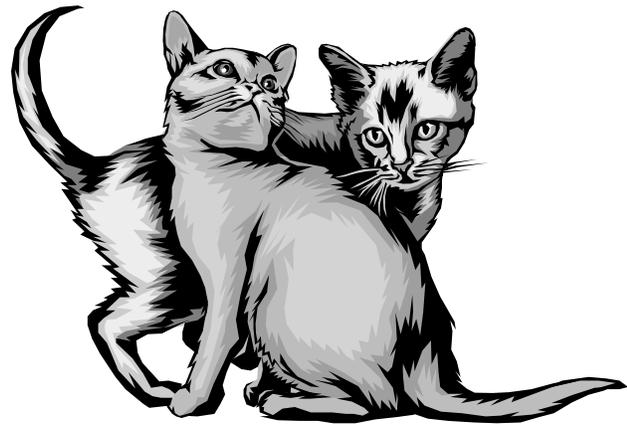
Soft kitty, warm kitty
Little ball of fur
Lazy kitty, pretty kitty
purr, purr, purr

Three Little Kittens

Three little kittens lost their mittens
And they began to cry: Meow, meow, meow
What? Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens
Then you shall have no pie: Meow, meow, meow
Three little kittens found their mittens
And they began to cry: Meow, meow, meow
What? Found your mittens, you good little kittens
Now you shall have some pie: Meow, meow, meow

Our Pet Rhyme

Our pet has
A special place.
We keep it clean
And neat.
We feed our pet
Every day.
It sure likes
To eat!



The Turtle

There was a little turtle,
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle,
He climbed on the rocks.
He snapped at a mosquito,
He snapped at a flea,
He snapped at a minnow, He snapped at me.
He caught the mosquito,
He caught the flea,



Sing, Song, Sway

The Cat of Many Colors

Cut out cats of white, purple, red, orange, blue, green, yellow and black from construction paper or felt. You can use on felt board or can mount construction paper cats on craft sticks. Invite children to put their cats on the flannel board when their color is mentioned or hold up their puppet..

Once there was a cat all white
Who wished that he were black as night.
He was as thirsty as could be,
And in the cupboard, what did he see?
Grape juice right before his eyes!
He drank it. Then, to his surprise,
He turned from white to something new:
Deep dark purple was his hue.
He peered into his little cup,
Saw tomato juice, and lapped it up.
He soon became the brightest red.
He thought, "Maybe I should go to bed;"
But he wasn't tired, and so
He looked for somewhere else to go.
He spied an orange on the floor,
And pounced in it, and played some more.
As he played this little game,
Orange was what he became.
He played with some blueberries, too,
So suddenly the cat turned blue.
A sour lime sat on the ground.
The kitty licked it, and he found
That he felt strange and not so keen,
For he had turned the color green.
Now he was a sad little fellow,
So he ate a banana and turned bright yellow.
Just then he saw a tasty treat,
Another food he had to eat.
A long black piece of licorice
Gave the little cat his wish.
He ate it all, and soon he was
Black from his head down to his paws!
Why did this happen? You guessed right,
If you blamed it all on Halloween night.





Sing, Song, Sway

Love Your Pets Song

(Sung to: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Love, love
Love your pets,
Love them
Every day.
Give them food
And water, too,
Then let them
Run and play.



Grey Pussycat

A big Grey pussycat (Pull on whiskers), pussycat,
pussycat

A big Grey pussycat lives in a house (Make house with both hands)

A big Grey pussycat, pussycat, pussycat

A big Grey pussycat POUNCED on a MOUSE!! (clap hands together)

Kitty, Kitty

I have a little kitty,

(Extend first and fourth fingers like ears)

He is as quick as he can be.

(Make a side way motion with one hand quickly)

He jumps upon my lap,

(Cup one hand in palm of other)

And purrs a song to me.

(Make purring sound)

Four Little Kittens

One, two, three, four--four little kittens

running through the door! (Make fingers run)

Four, three, two, one--four little kittens, see how fast
they run!! (put fingers behind back, hide all, "run" again)

One, two, three, four, 'Bye little kittens, running to the store!!

(wave with both hands)





Sing, Song, Sway

Dogs in the Dirt

Ten little doggies went out one day
(10 fingers up)
To dig in the dirt and play, play, play.
(Pretend to dig.)
Five were spotted, and five were not,
(Show one hand at a time.)
and at dinner time they ate a lot!
(Pretend to eat.)



Creeping

Creeping, creeping, creeping,
comes the little cat.
But puppy with her long ears jumps like that!

Counting Cats

To create a fun language and math flannel story, cut out a fat cat and ten "mats"
As you tell the story, invite children to add mats until there are ten, then count back-
wards to remove the mats at the end of the story.

- 1-Father cat is far too fat to fit on this mat..
- 2-I think he needs two. Fetch another one, do.
- 3-It seems to me that he'll need three.
- 4-He still needs more. That makes four!
- 5-How can he contrive to stretch across five?
- 6-Now what a fix If we can't find six.
- 7-This would be heaven if I just had seven.
- 8-Please don't be late with number eight.
- 9-I mustn't whine but I could do with nine.
- 10-Did you ever know when a cat stretched to ten?
Although he's fat this cat can have only one mat!!





Sing, Song, Sway

My Kitty Cat

I have a kitty cat named Puff.

(hold up one thumb)

He's round and soft as a ball of fluff.

(make a circle with finger and thumb of other hand)

Each day he laps up all his milk.

And his fur is soft as silk.

(stroke thumb with other hand)

When he's happy you will know,

For his fluffy tail swings to and fro.

(wiggle little finger)

Lonely Kitten

I'm just a lonely little kitten, as lonely as can be

(make fist of left hand, thumb for head and little finger for tail)

Won't somebody come and be a friend to me?

(right hand moves toward left with walking motion of index and middle fingers. When they meet, enclose fist in right hand)

I Know A Cat

(sung to BINGO)

I know a cat with perky ears,

And kitty is her name-o.

K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y,

And Kitty is her name-o.

She makes a sound and it's "meow,"

And Kitty is her name-o.

K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y, K-I-T-T-Y,

And Kitty is her name-o.





Sing, Song, Sway

My Kitten

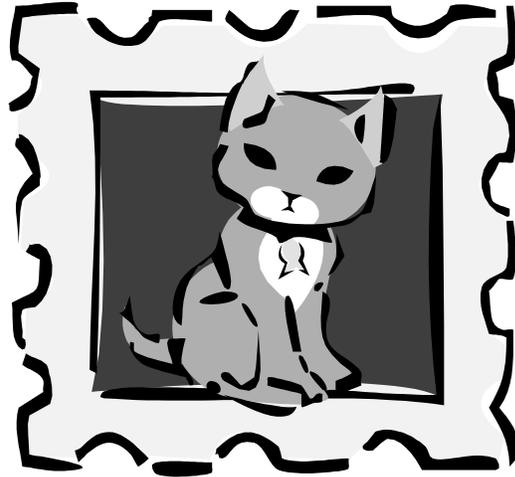
Sung to: "Sing a Song of Sixpence"

I have a little kitten,
She's black and white and gray.
When I try to cuddle her,
She always wants to play,
So I drag a piece of yarn
Across the kitchen floor.
She thinks it is a little mouse
To chase right out the door.

I'm A Little Cat

Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little cat.
Soft and furry.
I'll be your friend.
So don't you worry.
Right up on your lap I like to hop.
I'll purr, purr, purr and never stop.



Mrs. Kitty's Dinner

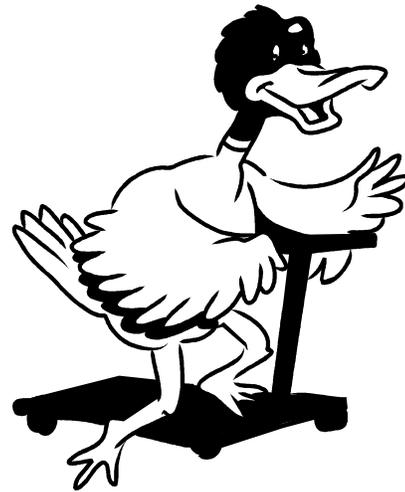
Mrs. Kitty, sleek and fat, (put thumb up with fingers folded on right hand)
With her kittens four. (hold up four fingers on right hand)
Went to sleep upon the mat. (Make a fist)
By the kitchen door.
Mrs. Kitty heard a noise.
Up she jumped in glee. (thumb up on right hand)
Kittens, maybe that's a mouse? (all five fingers on right hand up)
Let's go and see!
Creeping, creeping, creeping on. (slowly sneaking with five fingers on floor)
Silently they stole.
But the little mouse had gone (mouse is thumb on left hand)
Back into his hole.



Sing, Song, Sway

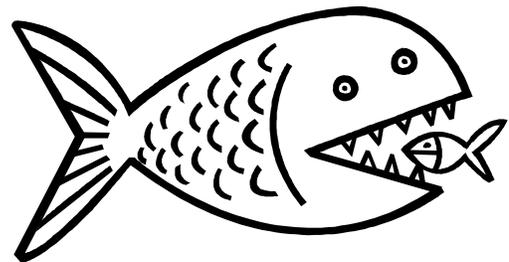
My Pets

I have 5 pets that I'd like you to meet (fingers)
This is my chicken, the smallest of all,
He comes running whenever I call.
This is my duckling he says, "Quack, quack, quack"
As he shakes the water from his back.
Here is my rabbit, he runs from his pen
Then I must put him back again.
This is my kitten, her coat is black and white.
She loves to sleep on my pillow at night.
Here is my puppy who has lots of fun.
He chases the others and makes them run.



Fred and his Fish

Fred had a fish bowl,
In it was a fish.
Swimming around,
With a swish, swish, swish.
Fred said, "I know what I'll do."
I'll buy another and that will make two.
Fred said, "I'm sure it would be very very nice
if I had three.
Fred said, "If I just had one more,
That would make 1, 2, 3, 4
Fred said, what fun to see them dive.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5
How many fish do you see?
How many fish, count them with me.



My Turtle

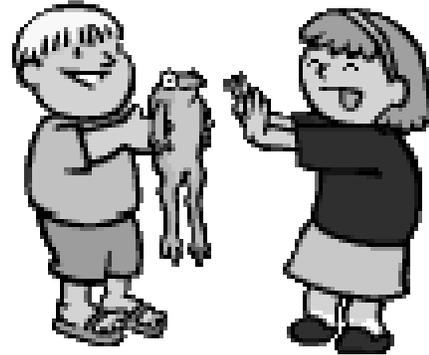
This is my turtle. (Make fist, extend thumb)
He lives in a shell. (hide thumb in fist)
He likes his home very well. He pokes his head out when he wants to eat. (Extend thumb)
And pulls it back when he wants to sleep



Sing, Song, Sway

The Frog On The Log

There once was a green little frog, frog, frog
Who played in the wood on a log, log, log.
A screech owl sitting in a tree, tree, tree
Came after the frog with a screech, screech, screech.
When the frog heard the owl in a flash, flash, flash,
He leaped in the pond with a splash, splash, splash



Three Little Ducks That I Once Knew

Three little ducks that I once knew.
A fat one, a skinny one, a yellow one too.
But the one little duck with a feather on his back
He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack, quack. He ruled the others with his quack, quack, quack.

Down to the meadow they would go.
Wibble, wobble, wibble, wobble to and fro.
But the one little duck with the feather on his back.
He led the others with his quack, quack.
Quack, quack, quack.
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack.

Home from the river they would come.
Wibble, wobble, wibble wobble, ho, hum.
But the one little duck with the feather on his back.
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack.
Quack, quack, quack.
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack.



Science

Benchmarks:
Cognitive/Intellectual Learning
Mathematics and Science 3.19-3.25

Either through your own collection or your local library, stock your science center with books that give real information about the animals who are pets in the children's lives. Compare information from the books as to what each pet eats, when it sleeps (some pets like mice and bats are nocturnal), how large it will grow, etc. Make up charts and put the information on the charts as you read it together.

Lay out a dog's leash, a rough piece of rope, some cloth and if you can borrow one or have one, a dog's harness that could be used to tie a dog and ask which would be the best for the animal? Let children experiment with the materials you've provided to find out the answer.

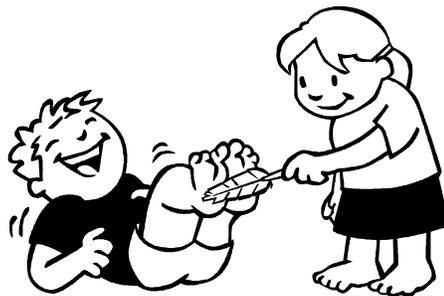


Pet Foods

Cut pictures of pets and pet foods and place on the science table. Include different foods such as meat, fish, carrots, lettuce, nuts, and acorns. The children can match the food to a picture of the animal that would eat each type of food.

Bird Feathers

Bird feathers with a magnifying glass can be placed on the science table for the children to examine.



Math & Manipulatives

Benchmarks

Cognitive/Intellectual Learning -
Mathematics and Science

DOG BONES FILE FOLDER GAME

3.10

Materials:

File folder

Laminate

Construction paper



Cut out ten dog bowls in ten colors (red, blue, yellow, green, purple, orange, black, white, brown, gray). Mount on inside of file folder. Make label for the file folder game with directions. Laminate file folder.. Cut out ten dog bones in the same colors. Laminate. Children match the dog bones to the bowls of the same color

FEED THE DOG

Benchmark: 3.15 Demonstrates an understanding of number (how many) and numeral (3 is a numeral) relationship (numeration)

Materials:

File folder

Laminate

Cut out ten pictures of dogs from magazines, print from clip art, or draw. Mount on inside of file folder. Program with the numbers 1 through 10. Make a label and print directions, glue to file folder. Laminate. Print 55 dog bones on card stock and laminate. Place in zipper type bag as playing pieces. Children will "feed" the dog the number of bones indicated on each dog.



Math & Manipulatives

CAT AND MOUSE GAME

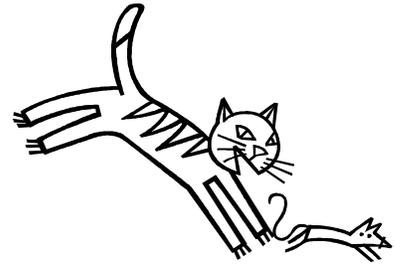
Benchmark 3.13 Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence

Materials:

Old game board or create a new one

Cat and mouse playing pieces (use small toys, plastic beads from craft departments, etc.)

Spinner or die



Children will choose to be the cat or the mouse. If they are the cat, they will be trying to catch the mice. If they are mice, they will be trying to get to the end of the game board and into their "hole" before the cat can get them. Children will spin or roll die and move pieces around the board. If a cat lands on the same square as a mouse, the cat "eats" the mouse and the mouse has to begin over. If a mouse lands on the same square as a cat, the cat has to begin over because the mouse "scared" the cat. First player to get to the "hole" wins the game.

GO HOME, PET

3.11 Things that go together

Materials:

3 x 5 index cards

Scissors

Magazine, clip art of hand drawn pictures of animals and their homes.

glue

Laminate (optional)

Print or cut from magazines pictures of pet homes and corresponding pets such as a dog and dog house, fish and fish bowl, cat and cat's bed, bird and bird cage, etc. Try to include all pets mentioned by the children in your group. Use 3 x 5 index cards and place the picture of the animal at one end of the card and the animal's home at the other end of the card. Cut apart as large puzzle pieces. Children will match the animal and the animal's home and can self-check by how the puzzle pieces fit.

Print or cut out pictures of pets on card stock, laminate. Invite children to match the pets to their homes.



Math & Manipulatives

PET GRAPHING

3.13 Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence

3.15 Demonstrates an understanding of number (how many) and numeral (3 is a numeral) relationship (numeration)

Materials:

Poster board

Sharpie or other marker

Yard stick

Toy animals (dogs, cats, fish, bunnies, goats, pigs, birds, snakes, mice)

Milk jug lids

Velcro

Name cards for each child in your group

Animal pet cards



You can create a large graph by using either large poster board or a plain shower curtain. Use the yard stick to draw lines creating rows and columns for the graph. You will need a row for each child in your group. Add six columns. Place a piece of hook Velcro on each row. You may wish to laminate the poster board first. Put the soft Velcro on the back of the name cards and attach to the name row. By using this method you can reuse this graph for many different uses. By using a large graph which can be laid on the floor, all the children can see easily, and you can add a kinesthetic dimension to graphing by using items the children can handle and place on the graph itself.

Show the children the toy animals and ask the children if they have a pet. If so, ask each child to choose the animal that looks the most like their pet. Be sensitive to children who do not have pets. Ask if they could have a pet what they would choose. Say "I wonder which animal most of you have? I know a good way to find out". Show the graph and invite children to place their pets on the row beside their names. Put toy animals at the column head to show the children which column their animal should go in. If you have unusual animals, you'll want to add a "special" column for those animals.

Count the animals in each column. You can use plastic numbers from a magnetic set or other numbers to put the total in each column. Compare which column has the most, which has the least, etc. etc.

You could also ask the children to place animals showing how many animals each child has and compare most and least. Stress to the children that each family has to make choices about what animals they have or if they keep animals at all. Discuss why some families

Gross Motor

Benchmarks:

4.9, 4.11, 4.12, 4:13

Pet Charades

Materials:

3 x 5 cards

Free hand drawings of pets, clip art or magazine cut outs of pets

Gift or lunch bag (a gift bag with a design of puppies or other pets is especially interesting to children)

Program the 3 x 5 cards with the picture of a variety of pets and write the name of each pet on the card also. Put the cards into the bag, let children take turns pulling out a card and moving like the animal pictured. The other children will guess which animal is being represented. Be sure everyone gets a turn to act.

Doghouse

Provide an old large cardboard box for the children to make a doghouse with adult supervision. They can cut holes, paint, and decorate it. When dry, the doghouse can be moved into the dramatic play area or to the outdoor play yard.

Pet Pictures

Hang pictures of pets on the wall at the children's eye level. Talk with the children about the different pets in the stories you've read to them. Put out crayons, markers, glue, collage materials, and paper. Let the children make pictures to illustrate the pet stories. If they do not wish to illustrate a story, let them experiment with the art media in their own way.



Fine Motor

Benchmarks:
4.6-4.8

SALT DOUGH #2

1 cup salt
4 cups flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water
4 tablespoons oil

Mix flour and salt. Add water and oil slowly to the dry ingredients, stirring with a spoon until well blended. Knead dough until soft and pliable. Sculpt objects or use cookie cutters. Bake 45 minutes in 350-degree oven until hard. Paint with acrylic or varnish to seal.

Make salt dough. Encourage children to mold pets, then bake and paint.

Pet Sponge Painting

Cut sponges into a variety of pet shapes. Place on the art table with paper and a shallow pan of paint.

Cookie Cutters and Playdough

Pet-shaped cookie cutters and playdough can be placed on the art table. Encourage the children to use the playdough and cookie cutters to form shapes of different animals.



Blocks

Benchmarks:

Experience Success 1.4-1.9

Supply toy pets for the block center. Encourage children to build places for the pets to live. Ask open ended questions about what type of shelter is best for each pet. Provide paper, pencils, markers, etc. for children to make signs for their cages, etc.

Encourage children to use blocks to create ramps for pets to do tricks on, etc.



Dramatic Play

Benchmarks:

Creative/Aesthetic: Expression Through Art Forms and Activities: 2.1-2.3

Veterinarians Office

If possible, take children on a field trip to a local veterinarian's office or invite your local veterinarian to come and talk to the children about pet care.

Set up a veterinarian's office after your field trip. Talk about what the children saw at the office and what should be included in this area. Work together to set up the veterinarian's office.



Materials:

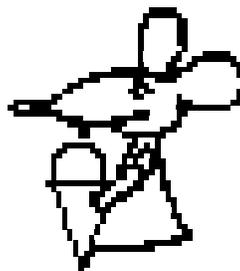
Appointment book, pen, prescription tablet, telephone, money, cash register, computer (children can make computer from a cardboard box), scrubs, toy doctor instruments, empty pill bottles with large lids, toy animals, blankets, cages, (can ask children to create the cages in block center and join the two centers as the veterinarian's office). Pictures of different pets. Chairs and magazines/books for reception area. Books about pets and veterinarians.

Mouse House

The children can pretend to be mice! Construct mouse ears out of fabric or construction paper and attach to headbands. Provide large cardboard boxes to represent houses for the mice.

Pet Store

Arrange the dramatic play area as a pet store. Provide props such as a cash register, play money, stuffed animals, animal cages, animal toys, and empty pet food boxes. Display posters of pets, including mice.



Dramatic Play

Pet Store:

If you have a local pet store, try to arrange a field trip for the children to visit. After the field trip, talk together about what the children saw and set up a pet store.

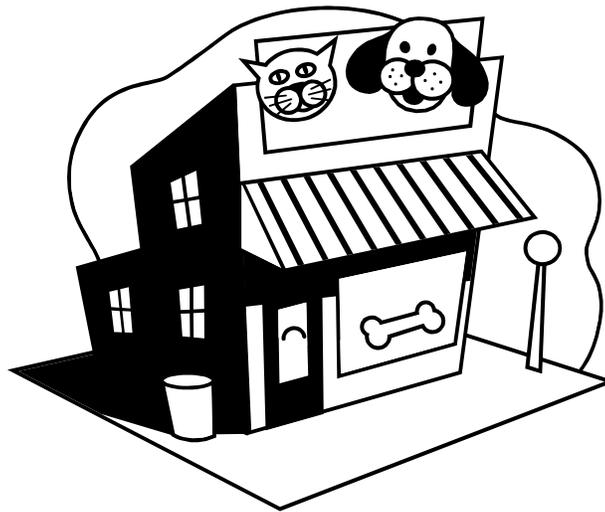
Materials: toy pets, pretend dog food, collars, leashes, cages, paper, pencil, pictures of pets, "shampoo", flea collars, (help children make these from construction paper), money, cash register, etc.

Animal Shelter

If possible set up a visit at a local animal shelter or ask your animal control specialist to visit and talk to the children about what an animal control specialist does. After the field trip or visit, talk together about what should be in an animal shelter and set it up together in dramatic play area.

Materials:

Leash, cages, money, cash register, "medicine", collars, pencil, paper, telephone, toy animals, dog food, bowls, dishes, etc.



Language Arts

IMAGINARY PET

Lead a discussion with the children about creating the perfect pet. What would make the best pet in the world? If you could create a pet, what would it look like? How would it sound? What would it eat? Etc. Write down answers and ask children to illustrate.

During a study of pets it is inevitable one of the children will tell about a pet dying. As good educators we can see this as an opportunity to use the pet's death to talk about a tough subject with the little ones.

A pet that dies doesn't move anymore, doesn't see, hear or taste and will never wake up again. This is the explanation of death the American Academy of Pediatric Psychiatry recommends for preschool age children. About age 9 children begin to understand death is permanent.

After a pet's death, children have a lot of questions. They may wonder if they caused the pet's death, why did the pet die, what happened to the body of their pet. Answer honestly and factually without giving unwanted information. "Daddy buried him in the yard."

- Be prepared to answer questions concerning a pet's death such as "What happened to him? Did I do something that made him die? Where is his body now?"
- Be prepared to offer comfort, holding hands, hugging and/ or snuggling
- Be prepared for anger, grief, confusion, possibly "acting out". Be understanding of the behavior and help the child talk about the way the child is feeling.
- Be prepared for that the grief of losing the pet could trigger memories of other things that have hurt in the child's life.

Keep some good children's books dealing with the subject of death on your resource shelf. Bill Cosby's *The Day I Saw My Father Cry*; Robert Munsch's *I Love You Forever*; *Beautiful* by Fowler. *My Grandfather's House* by Coville. These books show children that it is all right to grieve and also that although we grieve, still we are able to go on and live our lives.



Sand/Water Play

Benchmarks:

Cognitive/Intellectual Learning

Mathematics and Science: 3.19-3.20, 3.23

Put toy animals in the sand and water table for children to play with, experiment with. Bury turtles in the sand, place toy fish in the water table, etc.

Show children how to bathe the dogs. Give them empty shampoo bottles to pretend to shampoo their puppies. Discuss which pets like to have baths, which don't like water.

Would you bathe a snake, a worm, a mouse, a kitten?

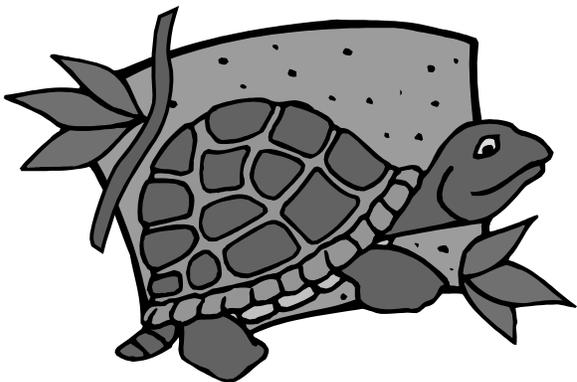


Aquarium Rocks

Place a bag of clean aquarium rocks in the sensory table. Provide cups, bowls, and pails for the children to use. Add water, if desired.

Minnows

Purchase minnows from a bait store. Place the minnows in a sensory table filled with cold water. Stress the importance of being gentle with the fish and follow through with limits set for the activity. After participating in this activity, the children must wash their hands.





Book List

Benchmarks:

Cognitive/Interlectual Learning: Language Arts: 3.1-3.5

Cookie's Week	Cindy Ward
and	Tomie dePaola
Clifford Series	Norman Bridwell
There's a Mouse in the House	
Amazing Mice	
Mrs. Brice's Mice	Syd Hoff
Find the Kitten	Gretchen Cartwright
My Pets	Eric Hill
Touch and Feel Home	DK Publishing
Who Says That?	Little Golden Books
Tiger is a Scaredy Cat	Phillips
The Cat in the Hat	Dr. Seuss
Cooking with the Cat in the Hat	Dr. Seuss
Captain Cat	Syd Hoff Animals,
Animals	Eric Carle
Where's My Cat?	Eric Carle
Cat's Colors	Jane Cabera
Why Do Cats Do That?	Nancy White
The Cat Looked for the House	Bella Baram
Counting is for the Birds	Frank Mozzola
My Grreat Uncle Tiger	James Riordan
Kitten's First Full Moon	Kevin Henkes
Bark George	Jules Jeiffner
The True Story of Balto	



Book List

The First Dog
The Little Red Sled
Working Dogs
Why Do Dogs Do That?
Dogs
Officer Buckle and Gloria
Where Does God Sleep, Mama?
Under the Sea
Time for Bed
Rainbow Fish
Swimmy
Little White Duck
Mr. Sea Horse
How Many Fish?
Emma's Pet
The Stray Dog
When the Fly Flew In
Zoe's Sheep
Terrible Mr. Twitmeyer
Whistel for Willie
The Cat Who Looked for a House
An Octopus Followed Me Home
Want a Ride?
I Love Guinea Pigs
Oodles of Poodles

Jan Brett
T. Hamilton
Sherry Shaham
Nancy White
Gail Gibbons
Peggy Rathman
Nancy Bestman
Scholastic
Mem Fox
Pfister
Leo Lionni
Walt Whikpo
Eric Carle
Rachel Gossel
David McPhail
Grimont
Peters
Bursik
Moore
Ezra Jack Keats
Bella Baram
Dan Yaccarino
Bill Gordh
Dick King-Smith
Nancy Parent



Cooking and Children Mix Well

Benchmarks

Cognitive/Intellectual Learning-Mathematics and Science: 3.13-3.15; 3.23

Physical Development: Health and Nutrition 4.3-4.5

Edible Puppy Chow

Ingredients:
1 bag of chocolate chips
peanut butter, butter
Chex cereal
powdered sugar
zip lock bag (gallon size)



Melt 1 bag of chocolate chips, 1 cup of peanut butter, and 2 tablespoons of butter in a microwave. Pour a box of Chex cereal into the mix, stir until it is coated well, Finally add 1 bag of powdered sugar, put in zip lock bag and shake till everything is coated well. Now you have edible puppy Chow!

Dog Bones

Ingredients for six bones:
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C peanut butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C dry milk
1 T. honey
2 T. graham cracker crumbs, finely crushed

Mix in bowl: $\frac{1}{2}$ C peanut butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ C dry milk. Add: 1 T. honey and mix very well
Divide into 6 balls. Mold each piece into shape of dog bone. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs on both sides

Rice Krispie Treats Mouse

Box of Rice Krispies or similar cereal
Margarine
Bag of marshmallows
Raisins
Pretzel sticks or licorice
Pink fruit roll ups



Prepare Rice Krispie treats according to directions on cereal box. Shape into ovals and let cool. When cool provide pretzel sticks/licorice for whiskers and let children cut pink nose from fruit roll ups. Could shape ears from the rice krispie treats and add to the oval.

Cooking and Children Mix Well

Pet Snake

Ingredients:

Bread stick dough in tube

Raisins

Give each child one of the long lengths of dough and encourage them to roll it and create a snake or worm with it.

Bunny Salad

Ingredients:

1 pear half per child

2 raisins

Shredded Mozzarella cheese and carrots

Lettuce leaf



Lay lettuce leaf on small plate, place pear half with rounded side up on top. Use two raisins to create eyes. Scatter cheese over the pear for fur. Use shredded carrots for whiskers.

Mouse Cookies

With the children, prepare a batch of drop cookie dough according to the recipe. Demonstrate how to drop three spoonfuls of dough onto a cookie sheet so that it will resemble a mouse head with two ears when baked. The mouse cookies can be frosted or details can be added with raisins, chocolate chips, and string licorice.

