

Family Curriculum



Pets

WOOF-WOOF-MEOW!

What animals are friendly pets? Which ones are not?
Would you want a pig for a pet at your home?

Take turns finding words that rhyme with:

BIRD	(heard, nerd, word)
DOG	(bog, fog, log)
CAT	(fat, hat, mat)
FISH	(dish, wish)

Conversation Starters: Ask your child one of these questions to begin a conversation about the theme

1. What animal would be your favorite pet?
2. What would happen if we had a zebra as a pet?

Book Topic & Internet Search

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD CREATE THEIR OWN BOOKS BY STAPLING OR TAPING PAPER TOGETHER IN THE FORM OF A BOOK.

Famous Pets

What kind of birds can be pets?

Turtles, the slowest pets ever

Caged pets

Dog houses

Dog Houses

MATH & SCIENCE PETTING ACTIVITIES

Children become aware of numbers in the early stages of early childhood. Building a strong numeracy foundation will prepare them for school. Number sense can easily be adapted to almost any activity you do.

Counting Pets

Materials Needed: Pictures of pets, number flashcards, and numbered dog bones with dots or stickers made out of construction paper.

Together, count aloud with the numbered flashcards, pointing to each number as you say it. Guide your child to repeat counting and pointing.

Spread out the number flashcards and dog bones on a flat surface.

Together with your child, find for each flashcard the corresponding dog bone.

Repeat for further practice and development of number recognition and one-to-one correspondence.

RESEARCH SAYS

Children during their early years notice math dimensions. This is the time to explore patterns, navigate space, balance building blocks, and compare quantities. Math can even be found during snack time by dividing a box of animal crackers or raisins. This helps children to make sense of their world beyond school and learn to use successful math skills in real life situations.

Parent Tip

- To assess the level of understanding, communicate and ask your child frequently for their opinion on safe and unsafe items as you go through the day.

Imagine the FUN!

Young children are known to tumble or bump into things. One reason is because they are developing and becoming aware of themselves in relation to space with the world. Encouraging activities that develop spatial sense and geometry will enhance their awareness of how the world works and fits together.

Activity: Shapes

Materials Needed: Assorted wooden blocks, puzzles, and large basic shapes on paper.

Using blocks as visual aides, guide your child to name the basic shapes - triangle, square, rectangle, etc.

Then provide your child with a bucket of wooden blocks and guide sheet with large printed shapes printed on it. Encourage your child to use prior knowledge in order to match the correct block to the printed shape. Allow your child time to play with shape-orientated puzzles to finish the activity.

Activity: Patterns

Materials Needed: Minimal.

Let your child know to listen attentively to your clapping or stomping in order to imitate a pattern. Observe and try to work up in complexity. Take it in turns to come up with new "Pet Patterns" and make animal sounds to create simple patterns for reputation.

Research Says

Early learner's use their imagination and play along with everyday objects such as a broom to leap themselves forward into abstract thinking through play.

Socializing for language development

B.F. Skinner, a well-known professional in child development implies that developing language is the result of imitation. Imitation can only happen if children are around others who are talking and communicating. **Activity: You Belong...**

Encourage verbal reasoning and logic, probing your young learner by asking thought provoking questions about pet families. Asking simple questions will help develop your young learner's ability to logically think and explain their own reasoning.

Materials Needed: Large pictures of pet families

Choose diverse toy animals and ask your child to put them in a line then label them in ordinal number words: first, second, third, and fourth. Guide as needed.

Talk with your child about "Pet Families" and the logical relationships using the toy animal families to illustrate.

Have a zip-lock bag or basket with animal pictures, take them out as an item to occupy your child's time while needing to wait in lines, like at a grocery store.

Have your child bring together the families by gathering corresponding groups showing logical relationships.



Art is a freedom of self-expression

Through the use of art, children express feeling otherwise repressed due to lack of communication skills. It is through that expression that children will convey their inner feeling of joy, fear, etc.

Activity: Paw Prints

Materials Needed: Pre-cut/sponge paw prints, paints, and large white paper.

Allow your child to choose from an assortment of paws to use in their art work. Provide enough time for your creative young learner to dip away and use paint and sponges to be as creative as his imagination can take him.

Proceed to express curiosity regarding the paw prints used and have your child tell you what animal he thinks made the paw prints.

Pet Care! Love these Pets

Materials Needed: *Unlovable* by Dan Yaccarino, white paper plates, Popsicle sticks, glue, and preprinted images of household pets.

Begin by reading *Unlovable*. Discuss the story with your child asking simple questions about the story. Discuss proper ways of taking care of a pet with your child, relating to personal experience where possible.

Provide your child with a preprinted pet image to color and cut out. Once image is colored, guide and assist to cut out and glue to the paper plate. Glue the paper plate to Popsicle sticks and use as a puppet for dramatic play to imitate the corresponding pet.

Research says movement along with music is the best way for children to develop physical skills, direct energy, stimulate imagination, and encourage creativity. Creative movement uses all of their motor, thinking, and emotion in the form of the body to emulate wind blowing, how the sun feels on their face, rolling in grass, or paint brushing wisped on the back of their hands.

Providing activities that are constructive and age-appropriate will help in the development of important muscles such as the fine motor muscles. Fine motor muscles are the small muscles in our hands. These muscles work while writing, climbing, cutting, rolling, etc.

Activity: My Pet House

Materials Needed: Popsicle sticks, card stock, glue, markers, pet pictures, scissors, and paint.

Work together and encourage your child to use their creativity to create their own pet house. Demonstrate how to apply glue on the Popsicle sticks to make pet house shapes allowing your child to create their own. Feel free to be creative and allow painting of the Popsicle sticks before gluing. Have your child choose a pet picture to cut out and glue inside their pet house.

RESEARCH SAYS

Children need a safe environment to develop a sense of trust, and it will provide a healthy foundation for early learners to navigate complicated situations. It is a child's social interactions such as playing, that fosters knowledge of themselves.

Puppetry is one of the favorite activities during childhood years. Creating them, watching them, or participating in playing with puppets captivate a child's attention. By allowing the creation of their own special, unique puppet, your child will develop creativity and self-expression. It is important to plan and provide plenty of materials for optimum success.

Activity: Pocket Pet

Materials Needed: Small sock (baby sock preferred), felt pieces cut into rectangles, squares and circles, yarn, wiggly eyes, glue, a hot glue gun (only to be used by an adult).

- Have your child choose a sock to get started.
- Have your child select and glue wiggly eyes.
- Assist your child to glue yarn for hair, felt piece for noses, etc.
- Allow your child to stuff their pets with cotton balls. Assist in tying a tight knot holding it shut.

Letter recognition is an important concept and skill.

Singing the alphabet, focusing on beginning sounds, and pointing as you read will help in the development of letter followed by letter-sound recognition.

Activity: Pet Collage

Materials Needed: Pet store catalogs, scissors, glue, large wall alphabet, white card stock, and picture of pet.

Cut out pictures of random pets for your child to choose from if you do not have your own pet.

If you have an alphabet book available, begin by reading. We recommend *W is for Woof: A Dog Alphabet* written by Ruth Strother.

Focus on the different alphabet letters as you both go over "pet" themed words.

Work together to create a pet collage. In the center, have your child glue their pet picture or their dream dog/cat picture chosen from the precut selection.

Using pet catalogs from local pet stores, have your young learner cut out pet related items that match accordingly to their pet. Guide as necessary.

Caring for a pet enables children to practice and develop nurturing skills while giving and receiving unconditional love. Through the right activities young children can developing awareness for caring for a pet. Provide opportunities to role-play with friends or with you playing "Pets" and showing respect and good care habits.



Research
Says

From birth to kindergarten, the focus should be on language development utilizing speaking and listening skills. This is the time children are receptive to the changes in expressive language.