

Pets

ELA

Read a book about pets. <https://tinyurl.com/Sora-App-Pets> Explain that a pet is a friendly animal that is kept as a companion. Not all animals make good pets. Ask your child why an elephant might not be a good pet. What else does your child know about pets?

Using pictures of pets, play a guessing game with your child. Say the beginning sound of a pet and ask your child to guess which one you are thinking of.



A veterinarian is a doctor for animals. They take care of sick or injured animals, like family pets and animals in a zoo or farm. Use books or online videos about veterinarians to answer the question, "What does a veterinarian do?"

<https://video.link/w/zmF9b>

Different pets need to eat different foods to stay healthy. Not all pets eat the same food. Discuss the difference between a carnivore and an herbivore.



<https://video.link/w/49F9b>

Rhyming helps children notice the sounds within words. Sing *My Fish* song. Can your child point out any rhyming words?

My Fish

(Sing to the tune of Jingle Bells)

See my fish, see my fish,
Swimming round and round.
In his little fish bowl,
He swims without a sound.
When I feed him fish food,
He swims up to the top.
He eats the flakes of fishy food
And when it's gone he stops!



	<p>A habitat is a natural place or environment where an animal normally lives and grows. What kind of habitats do we provide in our homes for our pet animals? Why do some pets live in cages?</p>  <p>https://video.link/w/tQF9b</p>
	<p>Name writing practice: Can your child build their name using sticks, blocks, or any other building material. Can they name each letter of their name? Children are naturally curious about how to write the names of the people and things around them. Invite your child to build the names of family members or popular characters they love.</p>
Math	
	<p>Sort pictures of pets into groups: Fur/no fur, pets that fly/do not fly, pets with paws/no paws, pets that swim/live on land, by color, etc. Ask your child to come up with new ways to sort the pictures.</p>
	<p>Sorting and comparing helps children develop their problem-solving skills. Sort goldfish crackers or another snack by color. Ask your child to compare which color has more/less.</p>
	<p>Rote counting is saying numbers in the correct order from memory. Help your child rote count how many frog jumps it takes to get across one room in your house. Is there another room that takes more jumps? Fewer?</p>
	<p>STEM:</p> <p>Ask your child to build a home for a pet of their choice using Legos, blocks, or any other materials available to them. Ask them to describe the structure they built.</p>
	<p>Take a walk around your neighborhood. Count/tally how many pets you saw or heard. How might your count/tallies be different in a rural (farm) area compared to an urban (city) area?</p>
Art/Sensory	
	<p>Make a pet rock using a rock, markers, paints, or whatever you have on hand. Check out this tutorial by children's author Maria Toth for ideas:</p>  <p>https://video.link/w/cfF9b</p>

	<p>Make a stethoscope using a paper towel roll, tape and a household funnel. Discuss how a veterinarian uses a stethoscope to help animals. See this link for step-by-step directions:</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/ycxppqdc</p>
	<p>Make bird feeder using a toilet paper roll, peanut butter, and Cheerios or another whole grain cereal. Place it outside and observe any bird visitors.</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/yaye5mw4</p>
	<p>Birds make nests out of gathered materials. Go on a nature walk and gather items to make a bird nest, like sticks, leaves, petals, etc. Draw a plan then build a nest. Place it outside to see if a bird “moves in.”</p>
	<p>Artist Denise Fielder uses newspaper and paints to create a pet portraits (https://tinyurl.com/cat-Denise-Fiedler). Create a pet portrait inspired by Denise Fielder. Trace and cut a head, body, and ears out of newspaper. Glue them on a piece of paper and add details with markers/ paints.</p>
<p>Gross/Fine Motor</p>	
	<p>Ask your child to cut out pictures of pets from old magazines to create a pet collage.</p>
	<p>Move like pets! Wag your tail like a dog, jump like a frog, slither like a snake, swim like a fish, fly like a bird. Invite your child to think of other movements.</p>

	<p>Set up a pretend veterinarian's office for your child using toys and other household items. Your child can pretend to care for sick and injured pets (stuffed animals/toys).</p>
	<p>Move like pets! Wag your tail like a dog, jump like a frog, slither like a snake, swim like a fish, fly like a bird. Invite your child to think of other movements. Watch this video for more ideas.</p>  <p>https://video.link/w/Z3F9b</p>
	<p>Ask your child to rip and glue small pieces of paper to fill a pet bowl to "feed" their pet rock.</p>
	<p>Play Simon Says using pet movements. "Simon Says slither like a snake, jump like a frog, swim like a fish" etc.</p>
	<p>Ask your child to cut out pictures of pets and match them to the correct pet house.</p>  <p>https://tinyurl.com/yc8r3ydo</p>
<p>Dinner</p>	
	<p>What do we know about pets? Talk with your family about their own pets and what they know.</p>
	<p>How do we take care of pets? Have this discussion with your family. How do different pets have different needs?</p>
	<p>As a conversation starter, ask your family: If you could be one animal, what would you be and why? Go around the table until everyone has had a turn answering the question.</p>

	<p>Talk to your child about table manners. Why do humans use forks and pets do not? Why is it impolite to chew with your mouth open? Do pets worry about being impolite?</p>
	<p>A carnivore is a person or animal that eats only meat, an herbivore eats only plants, and an omnivore eats both meat and plant foods. Look at your dinner. What foods would a carnivore eat? How about an herbivore? An omnivore? Discuss your findings with your family.</p>