

Children's Resources: Different Types of Animals



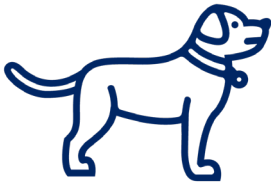
Word of the Day: Animal

Animals are living things that can move on their own and use their senses to understand the world around them. All animals need food and water. There are many different types of animals, such as rabbits, snakes, fish... even people are animals!

Discussion Questions

- What is your favorite animal and why?
- If you could have any animal for a pet, what kind of animal would you have?

Types of Animals



Mammal

Mammals have fur, outside ears, and need to drink milk when they are born.



Bird

Birds have feathers, beaks, and lay eggs.



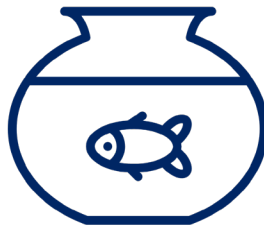
Reptile

Reptiles have scales, lay eggs, and are cold-blooded.



Amphibian

Amphibians have slippery skin, lay eggs in water, and are cold-blooded.



Fish

Fish have scales and use gills to breathe underwater.



Insect

Insects have six legs and an exo- (outside) skeleton.

Children's Resources: Different Types of Animals

Infants/Toddler Activities



Sensory Activities

Animal Texture Board

Materials: poster board or cardboard, texture materials, scissors, glue, marker

- A texture board, also known as a sensory board, can help your child explore the way different objects feel. To make a texture board, you only need to glue different objects to a poster board or cardboard. Here is a quick online [DIY Texture Board](#) tutorial.
- To make an animal-themed texture board, you will need materials that feel like different types of animals: fur or something fuzzy for mammals, feathers for birds, fake leather for reptiles, and smooth plastic for insects.
- If you want to include amphibians or fish on your texture board, you can rub Vaseline or a baby-safe moisturizer on top of fake leather or plastic.
- Make sure to label the textures. You can even include a picture of each animal type for more visuals!



Games

Animal Dress-Up

Materials: animal costume items, face paint

- Dressing up is a fun way to learn more about different types of animals. Here are a few ideas to get you started:
 - [Mammals](#) - ear headbands, fuzzy claws, painted whiskers
 - [Birds](#) - beaks, feather boas, plastic eggs
 - [Reptiles](#) - tin foil pan "turtle shells", scales made of felt or cardboard
 - [Amphibians](#) - frog eye headband, flippers for frog feet
 - [Fish](#) - painted gills, fins made of felt or cardboard
 - [Insects](#) - butterfly wings, antenna headband, cardboard exoskeleton

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PreK-Kindergarten Activities



Arts & Crafts

Create Your Own Animal

Materials: kid-friendly clay, fur, feathers, fake leather, googly eyes

- If you have kid-friendly clay, such as Play-Doh or Model Magic, your child can try to make their very own animal — real or imaginary!
- Provide different materials for different types of animals, such as fur for mammals or feathers for birds, and let your child have fun while creating!



Sensory Activities

Themed Sensory Bins

Materials: plastic containers, various substrates, plastic animal toys

- A sensory bin is a container filled with materials of different textures that children can explore. You can make different bins for different types of animals. Here are a few ideas to get you started:
 - Mammals - patches of fur, cotton balls, mammal toys
 - Birds - craft feathers, bird seed, plastic eggs, sticks for a "nest", bird toys
 - Reptiles - sand or moon sand, fake leather, sand paper, reptile toys
 - Amphibians - water or water beads, kid-friendly slime, amphibian toys
 - Fish - water, small fishing nets, fish toys
 - Insects - soil or grass, leaves, sticks, insect toys



Games

Pin the Tail

Materials: poster board or cardboard, Velcro or tape, animal items

- Upgrade the classic game of Pin the Tail for different types of animals.
- For example, you can pin the ears and fur on the bunny rabbit, or the feathers and beak on the owl, or the scales and tail on the lizard.