

Grade Level

PreK – 2nd Grade

Duration

45min

Activity Type

Dramatic Play

Pet Sitting

Goal:

To introduce students to the responsibilities of a pet owner.

Objectives:

1. To explore the different types of pets that people own and the different tasks involved when caring for an animal.
2. To develop empathy towards animals.

Standards:

PK.AL.1: Actively engages in play as a means of exploration and learning.

K.SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse peers and adults in small and large groups and during play.

Materials:

- Stuffed animals
- Pet food bowls
- Toy food items
- Pet toys
- Hair/fur brush
- Pet toothbrush
- Toy nail trimmers
- Pet bed
- Toy pet carrier
- Pet harness

Procedure:

Classroom Preparation

Set-up the dramatic play area in your classroom with appropriate materials to mimic household with pets. Use stuffed animals or animal toys to play the part of common pets, including but not limited to dogs, cats, birds (such as parakeets), rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, guinea pigs, and fish. As all of these pets require different types of care, you may want to purchase animal-specific items to go along with your classroom set-up (a leash/harness for a dog, or a feather wand for a cat).

In the materials list, we have given some recommendations for materials that can bring your classroom's pet household to life. Be sure to have everything set-up before the students come to play in your classroom's dramatic play area.

Introduction

Tell your students that today they will pretend to take care of pets in a home. Ask your students if they have any pets at home and let them share how they help take care of their animal(s). Introduce your students to

the animals in the dramatic play area and demonstrate how to safely play/use the items you have provided. Explain how all pets need food, water, shelter, playtime, and lots of love! See below for examples of play your students can engage in.

Pet Sitting

There are endless possibilities for different types of play. Your students can:

- Pretend to feed the pets in their care
- Pretend to trim the nails and/or beaks of the pets
- Wash/groom the pets and brush their teeth
- Take the pets out for a walk
- Play with the pets using appropriate pet toys