



Title: Looking after plants and animals: Looking after pets

Level: First

Code: 1.9.3

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Experiences and outcomes	Benchmarks
I am learning about where living things come from and about how they grow, develop and are nurtured. HWB 1-50a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies what is needed for growth and development of animals, plants and humans.

Learning intentions

- Children learn what animals (pets) need to grow and develop.
- Children learn that all living things need to be cared for and nurtured.
- Children begin to relate their learning to their own development and growth.

Success criteria

- Children understand the responsibilities of pet ownership.
- Children describe how to care for a pet.
- Children begin to describe the things they need as a child to grow and develop.

Resources to support this activity

- Craft paper/pencils/crayons for posters
- RSPCA “What do pets need?” <https://youtu.be/FOLP8p0jSoA> (3 minutes 37)
- The needs of an animal, song/animation: https://youtu.be/k4UDf3tF_O4 (1 minute)

Activity

1. RSHP learning is enhanced if children can sit together, start this way. Recap the previous lessons where children explored looking after plants and the life cycles of some animals.
2. Ask who has a pet? If children don't have a pet ask them to think about someone they know who has a pet, and what that pet is. Ask the children to talk with someone close to them about the pets they have or know. Ask them to share the pet's name and how they look after it.
3. Have a few children come to the front of the class/group to tell everyone about their pet. Remind them to say what they know about how the pet is cared for – What does it eat? Does it need exercise? Where does it sleep? Does it have a place of its own/cage/bed? Does it need brushed/cleaned? (An alternative game is for children to ask questions, the child answers yes/no and the children guess the pet).
4. Watched the RSPCA Education video called “What do pets need?” <https://youtu.be/FOLP8p0jSoA> (3 minutes 37) Ask the children about what pets were in the video. What are their dietary needs? Do different pets need different spaces to live? How can we make sure our pet is safe and healthy? Are there any pets that need to live together?
5. Introduce the task. Ask children to think about a pet they have, or a pet they would like to have. Make a poster, with a picture of their pet, that describes (pictures or words) all the things their pet needs to be healthy, happy and safe.
6. Have some children share their posters, encourage discussion, acknowledge all the things a pet needs to be cared for and nurtured. Share the song **The needs of an animal:** https://youtu.be/k4UDf3tF_O4 asking the children as they watch to consider – did they take account of all these needs? (They might like to view and sing along a few other times in the week).
7. Have some discussion around the question, drawing on the posters: *Do pets need different things from we humans? What do you need that's like your pet?* (recognising the need for care, protection, food, exercise...) Display the posters.

Additional ideas

- Children can use the iPad/tablet to play CBBC Game “Furry Friends” – a game that promotes taking care of your pet <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games/pets-factor-furry-friends>
- Glasgow Health have an interactive learning unit “My Friends and Relaxing”, an interactive game that explores the relationships we have with our pets. It introduces the idea that pets are like friends and we need to take care of them like a friend. Children could explore this unit independently on a iPad/tablet. https://www.gla.ac.uk/t4/~vet/files/glasgowschools/p2_relax&friends.swf
- There are a variety of videos from Howcast on Youtube that go into more detail on specific pet care. They include this video as an example, the class may enjoy watching them throughout the week (Note these may start with an advert that you need to ‘skip’): Guinea Pig care: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inyZwa9rzpg>
- If you have a fish tank/insect tank or any other creatures in the school you can use these as part of the lesson.
- Promote looking after pets during play time, especially in role play games.
- Some children/families may have pets that can be brought into class (be aware of any allergies). Young animals or animals with complex needs such as lizards or snakes can show the level of responsibility needed.

Connecting with home

Some text is provided with activity 1.9.1.

Children can take their pet posters home after the display.

Further learning activities are available that connect to this RSHP curriculum content

1.9.1 Looking after plants and animals: Plants

1.9.2 Looking after plants and animals: Life Cycles

Practitioner Notes

