

Pets Unit Extension Activities

Below are some extension activities for this unit! Although these activities require more planning and materials, they also allow for more creativity and free exploration!

Sensory

- **Pet Wash** - For this fun sensory experience you'll need small plastic animals, two bins or large Tupperware containers, soap, water, and dirt. Mix water and dirt together in one bin to make mud and mix soap and water together in the other bin to make sudsy water. Have your child get their plastic animals all muddy and dirty and then have them clean them off in the soapy water. Kids love mud and this is actually a great way to get their toys cleaned!
- **Aquarium Sensory Bin** - Use water beads and plastic fish toys to make your own sensory aquarium! Let your child have fun playing with their fish!
- **Play Dough Pet Treats** - Make pet treats by using playdough and cookie cutters! Try using different cookie cutters to make them different shapes!
- **Hamster/Guinea Pig Bins** - Shred newspaper and put it in a box or bin to create a hamster cage and then add pom-poms for make believe hamsters! Let your child play with their new pet hamsters!
- **Bird Seed Letter Trays** - Pour enough bird seed into a paper plate or cookie sheet to cover a layer. Give your child flash cards with letters, numbers, or shapes for your child to draw in the seed!

Gross Motor

- **Animal Yoga** - Use animal movements to do your own at home yoga! Some examples include: wag your tail like a dog, hop like a bunny, stretch like a cat, slither like a snake, etc. What other animal inspired movements can you come up with? This is a great way to get moving on a rainy day!

STEM

- **Pet Footprints** - All you need for this fun counting activity is small plastic animal toys, liquid paint, and paper. Have your child dip their animal's feet in the paint and make tracks on the paper. Count to see how many feet the animals have and how many track marks they can make!
- **Crate Building** - Use materials at home to build a crate or pen for your "pet". Use a stuffed animal or plastic animal figurine as your make-believe pet. Using materials you might have at home, like blocks, cardboard boxes, paper, toilet paper rolls, pipe cleaners, etc., build your pet a crate that fits them!
- **Shape Animals** - Cut out different shapes from various colored paper. Let your child create their own pet using the different shapes by gluing them down onto a plain sheet of paper.

Art

- **Pet Rocks** - Go on a rock hunt in your own yard! Find some rocks, bring them inside, and clean and dry them well. Once they are dried and dirt-free, use paint to decorate your rock into your own pet! You can add googly eyes, yarn, glitter, pipe cleaners, or whatever else you might have at home! Hot glue would work best but is for grown-ups only! If you don't have hot glue, regular school glue would work too, just make sure you let your pet rock dry for a few hours before playing with it!
- **Feather Painting** - Use feathers as paintbrushes! Lightly dip the feathers into paint and use them as brushes on a piece of paper!
- **Pet Collars** - Use pipe cleaners and beads to make collars for your stuffed animals! This is also a great way to practice fine motor skills and bilateral coordination!

More Books to Check Out!

- **What Pet Should I Get** by Dr. Seuss
- **The Pigeon Wants a Puppy** by Mo Willems
- **Harry the Dirty Dog** by Gene Zion
- **Pig the Pug** by Aaron Blabey
- **I Wanna Iguana** by Karen Kaufman Orloff
- **Lola Gets a Cat** by Anna McQuinn
- **What Pet to Get?** by Emma Dodd