

# Being Kind to Our Pet

## Primary Objectives

- 9a. Uses an expanding expressive vocabulary
- 19b. Writes to convey ideas and information

## Why It's Important

Children learn through observation and discovery. They can watch dogs, cats, hamsters, ants, and other living creatures for long periods of time. Encouraging your child to write down his observations and discoveries will help him learn to use his beginning writing skills in meaningful ways.

## Materials

Paper; markers, pens, pencils, or other writing tools; a pet or other living creature to observe

## What You Do

1. Ask your child to tell you about experiences he has had with animals.
2. Discuss how to observe living things so they can remain healthy and safe. Talk about the differences between pets and wild animals. *It is fun to watch wild animals, but we always keep our hands to ourselves when we are near them.*
3. Encourage your child to observe a pet or other animal and talk about what he sees. Make sure to closely supervise any interaction between your child and the animal.
4. After he is finished observing, ask him to help you write down some of his observations.
5. Encourage him to write any familiar letters to represent words.
6. Continue the activity for as long as your child is interested.