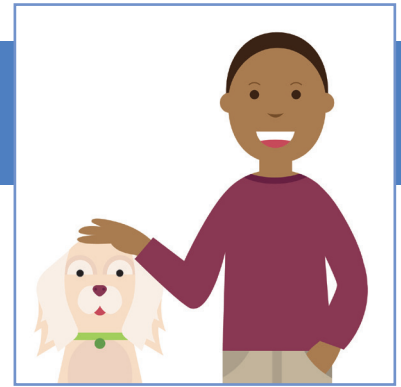# Pets
Instructions

Understanding Your Theme Unit

The "Pets" theme unit includes a variety of fun and engaging activities to use during circle, centers, independent work, and group activity times. The focus of this theme unit includes:

- Pet-related activities, games, vocabulary words, and concepts
- Art and cooking activities with a pet theme
- Independent work activities in math and English language arts
- Social studies
- Life skills
- Scientific inquiry
- Working with a partner
- Cooperating in a group

This theme unit is designed to be used as part of a comprehensive behavioral curriculum (The STAR Program). All students will benefit from direct instruction focused on teaching essential skills in receptive and expressive language, academics and social/play skills. The activities in the theme unit can assist instructors with generalizing and expanding skills students have learned in more structured teaching sessions. All activities provided throughout the theme unit address a range of student skill levels.

A Few Easy Steps for Successful Theme Unit Instruction

1. Follow the suggested **Monthly Calendar** for activities focusing on pet-themed vocabulary and concepts.

2. Introduce the theme unit concepts during **Circle and Group Activities**. Using the lessons provided, teach students important vocabulary and concepts that will be used in centers and independent work.

3. **Independent Work** activities are provided for a wide range of student skill levels. Activities are a follow-up to the concepts, vocabulary, and ideas presented during circle and group activities. The independent work activities can also be used during group teaching times.

4. **Group Activities** incorporate art, cooking, games, social studies, and science. Activities provide an opportunity to introduce and practice the concepts taught throughout the theme unit.

5. The **Monthly Newsletter** guides parents through the current unit, with an option to include a personalized note from the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

Pet Theme Vocabulary: • Animals • Homes • Food • Supplies • Care **Pet Concepts:** • Caring for pets, bonding with animals, pet safety, domestic vs. wild animals	**English Language Arts:** • Letter matching and identification • Phonics: beginning and short vowel sounds • Theme vocabulary in words and sentences • Theme comprehension • Phonemics: word families • Sight words • Coloring, cutting, gluing • Tracing, copying, writing words and sentences • Presentation of ideas in pictures and writing	**Math:** • Counting and one-to-one correspondence • Geometry • Money • Time • Sorting and patterns • Comparing and classifying • Adding and subtracting
	Science and Social Studies: • Pets vs. wild animals, talking about your pet, comparing pets	**Social Skills:** • Turn-taking, waiting, sharing, asking questions, commenting, working in a group

Utilizing Learning Objectives

Each activity, lesson, worksheet, and task opens with a learning objective that clearly outlines the skills and concepts reinforced in that specific piece of material. All objectives work off of learner-based outcomes in regard to students' individual skill levels. Learning objectives can be used to reinforce state and district educational standards and individual IEP goals; they can also help maintain documentation of the skills and tasks students practice and master during these activities.

Circle

The circle activities and visuals include icons for calendar, songbooks, and pet-themed activities.

It is important to have a structured circle routine. View the ideas and visuals in the "Routine Essentials: Circle - Morning" page of the STAR Media Center. Once the circle routine and visual supports are in place, add more fun to circle time by introducing new themes. Each theme unit includes circle song icons, books, and activities.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
CALENDAR DATE ICONS Icons for each day of the week to identify the date. Includes repeating patterns. Contains 31 days so you can customize the unit to suit your specific time frame.	• Kitten, kitten, puppy, puppy
SONGBOOK ICONS Support student participation by providing song choice icons and visual supports for each song.	• I Know a Pet • My Pets
CIRCLE ACTIVITIES Use these activities to introduce the theme and teach key vocabulary and concepts.	• Who Has the Pet Item? • What Doesn't Belong? • Silly Pets • My Pet • Hidden Dog Bone Game
THEME-RELATED VIDEOS Use the following videos during circle to introduce the concepts taught in the theme unit.	• See circle activities page for a link to videos. • We recommend that you preview the YouTube videos prior to student viewing to ensure appropriate content as video links can break or change. Also be advised ads may appear within the videos.

THEME VOCABULARY
Introduce new vocabulary and concepts through written and visual supports.

Animals: Pet, Dog, Puppy, Cat, Kitten, Turtle, Fish, Bird, Hamster, Rabbit, Rat, Snake, Frog

Homes: Dog House, Cat Bed, Fish Bowl, Birdcage, Hutch, Hamster Cage, Terrarium, Aquarium

Food: Kibble, Cat Food, Fish Food, Crickets, Bird Seed, Carrots, Pellets, Water

Supplies: Kennel, Food, Bowl, Collar, Leash, Brush, Hamster Wheel, Litter Box, Bone, Yarn Ball, Cat Tower

Other: Walk, Groom, Bathe, Veterinarian, Love, Play, Purr, Meow, Bark, Feed, Pet

Group Activities

A variety of group activities are included that incorporate cooking, art, games, life skills, social studies, and science.

Art group activities include instructional videos for step-by-step guidance. View the videos below each art lesson on the "Group Activities" page of the STAR Media Center.

Small group activities are a great way to build a positive classroom climate and teach social skills. Providing structure during these activities will create clear expectations for students and promote independence. Refer to the Small Group Activity routine ideas located in the Routine Essentials section of the STAR Media Center for additional ideas.

NAME OF ACTIVITY/VISUAL SUPPORT	PRINTABLE FORMS
GAME: FEED THE DOG COUNTING (Counting game using dog kibble)	Feed the Dog Counting Game
GAME: FEED THE CAT (Letter matching game using cat images)	Feed the Cat Vowel Game
GAME: HOW MANY PETS? ROLL AND GRAPH (Graphing game with a pet theme)	How Many Pets? Roll and Graph
GAME: PET MEMORY (Classic memory game with a pet theme)	Pet Memory
ART: HANDPRINT CAT - *See instructional video for step-by-step guidance* (Art project in which students create cats using their handprints)	Handprint Cat
ART: GOLDFISH IN A BAG - *See instructional video for step-by-step guidance* (Art project in which students create watercolor paintings of fish)	Goldfish in a Bag
ART: PAPER PLATE PUPPY - *See instructional video for step-by-step guidance* (Art project in which students create dogs out of paper plates)	Paper Plate Puppy
ART: PATTERN SNAKE - *See instructional video for step-by-step guidance* (Students create beaded snakes with specific patterns)	Pattern Snake
COOKING: FISH IN A TANK (Students assemble graham cracker snacks inspired by pet fish)	Fish in a Tank
COOKING: KITTY CAT BAGEL (Students create sweet and savory snacks inspired by cats)	Kitty Cat Bagel
COOKING: PUPPY SNACK (Students make snacks resembling puppies)	Puppy Snack
COOKING: STRAWBERRY MOUSE (Students create fruity snacks inspired by mice)	Strawberry Mouse
LIFE SKILLS (Pet-themed life skills activities)	Feeding Animals Picture Sequencing Pet Safety Sorting Pet Supply Matching
SOCIAL STUDIES (Pet-themed social studies activities)	All about My Pet Pets vs. Wild Animals What Pets Do We Have?
SCIENCE (Pet-themed scientific inquiry lessons)	Animal Sound Prediction How Do Fish Breathe?
THEME-RELATED BOOKS	1. *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story* by Kelly Bennett 2. *Please, Puppy, Please* by Spike Lee 3. *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion 4. *Cookie's Week* by Cindy Ward 5. *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer 6. *Too Many Rabbits* by Peggy Parish 7. *A Cat and a Dog* by Claire Masurel

Independent Work

Independent work task boxes, file folder tasks, and worksheets are included for math and English language arts at three different levels of difficulty.

Instructions for preparation of each type of independent work task can be found at the top of each subject's independent work section in the Media Center.

Students benefit from structured independent work time: Review the independent work routine ideas and visuals in the Routine Essentials section of the STAR Media Center.

Activities for independent work follow a consistent format and address academic standards in math and English language arts. Each new theme includes independent work tasks with rotating formats, targeting learning objectives in fun and engaging ways while providing consistency of instruction for students to build on previously learned skills. The table below is an overview of the format for each lesson.

CURRICULAR AREA - ELA	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
1. Reading (Literature) • Key ideas and details • Craft and structure • Integration and knowledge of ideas • Range of reading and level of text complexity	**ELA: Worksheet 1.1** Coloring Pictures	**ELA: Worksheet 1.2** Comparing Pictures	**ELA: Worksheet 1.3** Sequencing
2. Reading (Informational Text) • Key ideas and details • Craft and structure • Integration and knowledge of ideas • Range of reading and level of text complexity	**ELA: Task Box 2.1** Vocabulary Words	**ELA: Task Box 2.2** Matching Pictures to Words	**ELA: Task Box 2.3** Matching Pictures to Descriptions
3. Reading (Foundational Skills) • Print concepts • Phonological awareness • Phonics and word recognition • Fluency	**ELA: File Folder 3.1** Sorting by Size	**ELA: File Folder 3.2** Reading Comprehension 1	**ELA: File Folder 3.3** Reading Comprehension 2
4. Writing • Text types and purposes • Production and distribution of writing • Research to build and present knowledge • Range of writing	**ELA: Worksheet 4.1** Tracing	**ELA: Worksheet 4.2** Connecting Dots	**ELA: Worksheet 4.3** Tracing and Writing
5. Speaking and Listening • Comprehension and collaboration • Presentation of knowledge and ideas	**ELA: Task Box 5.1** Following Left-Right Directions 1	**ELA: Task Box 5.2** Following Left-Right Directions 2	**ELA: Task Box 5.3** Following Left-Right Directions 3
6. Language • Conventions of standard English • Knowledge of language • Vocabulary and acquisition use	**ELA: File Folder 6.1** Matching Pictures	**ELA: File Folder 6.2** Matching Words to Pictures 1	**ELA: File Folder 6.3** Matching Words to Pictures 2

Independent Work

CURRICULAR AREA - MATH	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
1. Counting and Cardinality • Number names and the count sequence • Counting to tell the number of objects • Comparing numbers	**Math: Worksheet 1.1** Coloring Numbers	**Math: Worksheet 1.2** Counting Items	**Math: Worksheet 1.3** Writing Numbers
2. Operations and Algebraic Thinking • Addition and subtraction • Multiplication and division • Pattern generalization and analysis	**Math: Task Box 2.1** One-to-One Correspondence	**Math: Task Box 2.2** Counting and Correspondence	**Math: Task Box 2.3** Addition
3. Number and Operations in Base Ten • Numbers 11-19 • Counting sequences to 120 • Understanding and use of place value	**Math: File Folder 3.1** Matching Ten 1	**Math: File Folder 3.2** Matching Ten 2	**Math: File Folder 3.3** Counting Using Base Ten
4. Measurement and Data • Description and comparison of measurable attributes • Classification of objects and counting in categories • Time and money • Liquid volume • Representing and interpreting data	**Math: Worksheet 4.1** Sorting by Type	**Math: Worksheet 4.2** Graphing 1	**Math: Worksheet 4.3** Graphing 2
5. Geometry • Shapes: area, angles, and attributes • Drawing and identifying lines and angles	**Math: Task Box 5.1** Recognizing Shapes	**Math: Task Box 5.2** Identifying Shapes	**Math: Task Box 5.3** Beginning Geometry
6. Fractions • Fractions	**Math: File Folder 6.1** Matching Halves	**Math: File Folder 6.1** Beginning Fractions	**Math: File Folder 6.1** Intermediate Fractions