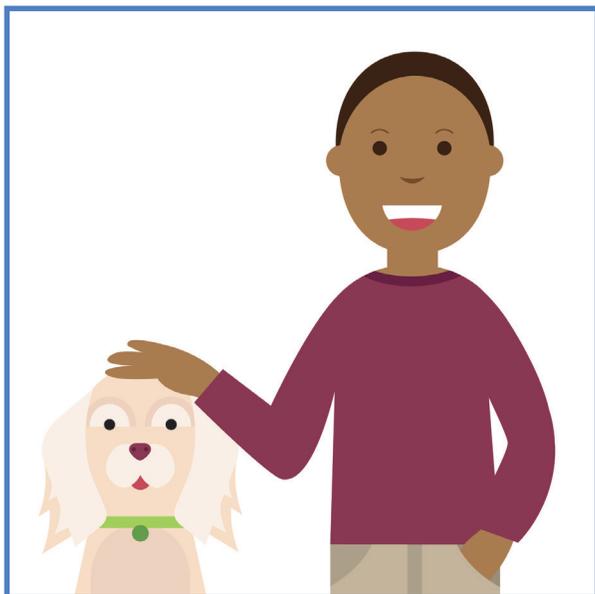




# THEMES FIRST! PETS

## Pets

### This Month's Theme Unit Is "Pets"



At home, pets provide unconditional love, comfort, and companionship— in the classroom, pets can also make a huge impact. Learning about animals in an educational setting encourages students to think about compassion, responsibility, and empathy. From dogs and kittens to frogs and snakes, pets offer opportunities to practice kindness while learning about other creatures' needs. By studying different pets, students learn about caring for animals, pet safety, and bonding with different species. This month's theme unit—*Pets*—focuses on animal caretaking with fun, original lessons that promote an understanding of the human-animal connection.

Engaging lessons and hands-on activities guide students as they learn about a variety of pets. Games, art projects, social studies, science, cooking, and independent work lessons strengthen writing, math, and reading skills while helping students understand what it means to own and care for pets.

Group activities, songs, and circle exercises offer students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers. Lessons throughout the theme address a wide range of student skill levels. As students work through the unit, they gain confidence, build social skills, and achieve a greater understanding of animal welfare and companionship.

### Theme Unit Vocabulary:

**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

### What We Are Learning about Pets:

- Pet supplies
- Domestic vs. wild animals
- Social studies: custom pet posters

- Fun with pet-themed crafts
- Animal sound prediction
- Life skills: pet safety

- Scientific inquiry: how do fish breathe?
- Collaborative games
- Cooking: pet-themed snacks

