



Reception Curriculum Map - Topic: Pets

Topic Overview

Children explore different types of pets, how we care for them, and why animals are important in our lives. The topic encourages empathy, responsibility, communication, and curiosity about the natural world.

EYFS Areas of Learning

1. Communication & Language

- Learn and use pet vocabulary.
- Listen to stories about pets and respond to questions.
- Role-play conversations between pet owners and vets.
- Talk about their own pets or a pet in their family.
- Ask visitors questions about different pets.

2. Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

- Discuss how to care for living things and why kindness matters.
- Explore feelings through pets (e.g., "How do you think the puppy feels?").
- Take turns in role-play areas (pet shop, vet surgery).
- Build confidence by sharing photos or drawings of pets from home.
- Children's Mental Health week activities.

3. Physical Development

- Fine motor:
 - Use tweezers to "feed" toy animals.
 - Brush toy pets, fasten collars, scoop pretend food.
 - Draw and label pets.
- Gross motor:
 - Move like different animals (hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake).
 - PE lessons: will learn simple yoga poses, breathing and relaxation techniques.
 - In yoga, through stories the children will also develop balance, coordination, core strength and body awareness.

4. Literacy

- Key texts: *The Great Pet Sale/Wibbly Pig Picks a Pet* by Mick Inkpen, *Mog* series by Judith Kerr,
- Story sequencing using pet-themed books.
- Create simple fact books about pets.
- Mark-making in the vet role-play area (appointment cards, prescriptions).
- Consolidation of phase 3 phonic sounds.
- World Book day activities.

5. Mathematics

- Interpret and create simple pictograms based on pet popularity.
- Sort animals by type, size, colour, number of legs.
- Compare quantities using more and less: "Who has more fish?"
- Measure pet footprints using cubes or rulers.
- Number bonds to 10

6. Understanding the World

- Learn about different pets and their needs.
- Sorting wild vs. domestic animals and discuss their habitats.
- Visit from a vet (or virtual visit).
- Begin to learn simple classifications of animals (mammals, reptiles, birds, fish)
- British Science Week
- Christian festival of Easter

7. Expressive Arts & Design

- Create pet masks, puppets, or clay models.
- Build pet homes using blocks or junk modelling.
- Sing animal songs (e.g., "How Much Is That Doggy in the Window").
- Role-play pet shop, grooming salon, or vet surgery.
- Paint pets using different textures (sponges for fur, cotton buds for scales).

As you know, we feel it is very important for children to have first hand experiences. Therefore, if you have a well behaved pet that could visit school so the children can ask questions about its care, please let me know! In the past we have had puppies, a tortoise, snakes and guinea pigs all visit us so we are open to ideas.

HOMEWORK TASK: Please could children bring in a photo of either their own pet, a pet in their family or a pet their parents used to have. Please ensure children are ready to talk about the pet in the photo including its name, how to care for it, its likes and dislikes. Please bring the photo in on Monday 2nd March (photo will be used for a display)

Many Thanks,

Mrs Anderson