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INTRODUCTION

Pet Pals is a unit, written for Grades 1 - 2, that will familiarize students with differences between pets and animals, while learning that certain kinds of animals make better pets.

Learning proper care techniques for various pets will also be emphasized.

A major focus of the unit will be to encourage children to share ideas about their pets or "pretend" pets.

The unit includes teaching suggestions and activities for reading, math, social studies, science, music, art and creative drama as students learn about animals that can be kept as pets.

It also provides pictures of pets, that can be photocopied and colored, and blank activity cards that can be used for flash cards, assignment cards, etc.

The unit gives a wide variety of activities. Choose those that are most appropriate for the age and ability of your students.

CONCEPTS

1. There are various kinds of animals.
2. Some animals become pets.
3. Any tame animal that is kept as a special friend is called a pet.
4. Pets should be chosen carefully because:
 - a. some have special needs because of size, diet, need for physical activity and protection.

ACTIVITIES

A. LANGUAGE ARTS

I. Vocabulary

1. Introduce the children to the following words by having them help you make a vocabulary list on a chart:

cat	fish	duck	butterfly	parakeet
dog	house	frog	animals	bird
guinea pig	rabbit	chicken	turtle	hermit
pet	hamster	mouse	gerbil	crab

2. Make flash cards for children to take home, with the above listed vocabulary words.

3. **Concentration - "Name This Animal"**

Make 2 sets of cards - self-corrective ones are great!

Have one set with the animal pictures and another set with pet or animal names.

Have children try to match them.

This game can be played as a group or individually.

4. **"Name That Friend's Pet"**

Have 2 sets of cards as in Activity 3.

On one set, list the names of the children in the class.

On the other set, write the names of the pets as given by the children.

Have them practice matching them.

B. MATHEMATICS

1. Compare animals by using toy animals or pictures.
Group them into categories:

BIG SMALL BROWN FURRY

or

PETS FARM ZOO FOREST

2. Make a display of pet supplies such as feeding dishes, toys, (bone, ball, rubber mouse, etc.), leashes, license tags, empty cage, empty containers of dog, fish, hamster or bird food.
Ask children which pets use the various supplies.
Have pictures of pets eating, sleeping, etc. to help them find the answers.
They are to match appropriate supplies with each pet.
3. Whenever opportunities for counting pets arise, they should count as often as possible.
4. Cut out various pets from colored felt.
Have children count them as they are playing with them.
The pets can be cut from construction paper and laminated if felt is not available.
5. Have children make sets of bunnies, dogs, cats, etc. with flannel board and felt pieces.