

I WANT A PET

Project Skills:

- Youth will create their own “pet” and describe it for the group.

Life Skills:

- Learning to learn

Academic Standards:

- English Standard A.4.2: Reads and responds to literature.

Grade Levels: K-2

Time: 45-60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Read a book Activity

- *That Pesky Rat* by Lauren Child (ISBN: 076361873X)
- *I Want a Pet* by Lauren Child (ISBN: 1883672821)

Pet Charades Game

- Flip chart and markers
- Pet charade cards

Design a Paper Bag Pet Activity

- Paper lunch bags
- Simple craft do-dads to attach to the bag to make a pet
- Pet Charade cards
- “Meet My Pet” sheets (1 per child)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons
- 4-H Clover stickers or other stickers

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Read a Book

Have the youth choose the book they’d like to read. Ask them to predict what they think the book will be about. As you read the book out loud, be sure to pause before pages to ask what they think may happen next. When you are done reading the book, ask: “Is this a fiction or non-fiction book? What did you like best about the book? Have you been introduced to other books by this author?” Point out Ms. Child’s wonderful artwork in these books. Have them describe the artwork.

Game: Pet Charades

Ask the youth, “Who has a pet? What do they do?” Talk about pets for kids and the “naughty and nice things” pets might do. Write up a list with the youth. Talk about how pets “talk” to us without being able to speak.

Then have youth “act out” animal actions (they can be “good” or “naughty” things a pet might do) described on cards for the rest of the group to guess. Help youth with reading the action, if necessary, and give them clues as to what they could do.

Activity: Design a Paper Bag Pet

Youth will be able to use their imagination and craft materials to design their very own pet with a paper bag. Encourage creativity and individuality in their paper bag pets.



Youth will introduce their pet to the rest of the group when all are done. Youth should be able to give their pet a name and some of the favorite things that the pet would like to do.

During their introductions, you can fill in the blanks for each child on their “Meet My Pet” sheet. Youth this age are shy about speaking in front of a group, even a group of their peers. This will encourage them to express themselves more easily. The pet sheets should be sent home with the youth to accompany their pet.

Every youth that participates should receive a “good job” compliment and a 4-H Clover sticker or other sticker for their communication efforts.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- Who has a pet?
- How does your pet “talk” to you without being able to speak?

Apply:

- If you could have any pet in the world, what would it be? Why?
- Where would you keep this pet?
- How would you care for it?

Sources:

- Created by Kathy Kauth, Urban 4-H Coordinator, UW-Extension, Brown County.
- “Introducing a New Book” under “Helpful Hints” is adapted from The Michigan Team Nutrition Booklist, Michigan Team Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences, Michigan State University, 2002.

HELPFUL HINTS**Introducing a New Book**

Use these basic, pre-reading strategies to get students interested in a new book before reading it:

- Examine the cover to predict what the book will be about.
- Read the title of the book to, or together with, students.
- Identify the author and illustrator.
- Introduce important concepts and vocabulary words that might be confusing to students prior to reading the book. If you could have any pet in the world, what would it be? Why?

While reading:

- Stop at appropriate times to allow for participation and discussion.
- Encourage youth to interact with the text while listening to it. This helps them to understand and remember the important points.

After reading:

- Provide students with a time to reflect on the book.
- Ask them to describe their favorite part or share something new that they learned from the story.

ADDITIONAL WEB LINKS

- Find out more about Lauren Child and her unique artistic style at www.encompassculture.com/encompass/magic_pencil/?s=Lauren%20Child.
- The American Veterinarian Medical Association has lots of activities to teach youth about responsible pet ownership at www.avma.org/careforanimals/kidscorner/default.asp.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team: September 2005.

MEET MY PET

My name is _____

I live in _____

I like to eat _____

I sleep in _____

I move like this _____

My enemies are _____

I defend myself by _____

MEET MY PET

My name is _____

I live in _____

I like to eat _____

I sleep in _____

I move like this _____

My enemies are _____

I defend myself by _____