

Grade Level

PreK – 2nd Grade

Duration

45min

Activity Type

Dramatic Play

Veterinary Clinic

Goal:

To introduce students to the job of a veterinarian and the various skills used to treat patients in a clinic.

Objectives:

1. To explore various veterinary skills using stuffed animals and pretend medical tools.
2. To develop empathy towards animals.

Standards:

PK.AL.1: Actively engages in play as a means of exploration and learning.

K.SL.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse peers and adults in small and large groups and during play.

Materials:

- Stuffed animals
- Bandages and gauze
- Popsicle sticks
- Cotton swabs
- Cotton balls
- Soft toothbrush
- Cups/jars
- Hair/fur brush
- Pen light/small flashlight
- Scale
- Toy animal carrier with small blanket
- Gloves
- Surgical masks
- Lab coats/scrubs
- Clipboards
- Patient chart
- Fabric e-collar
- Toy pet food
- Toy medical supplies (stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, otoscope, thermometer, needle, etc.)
- Pet food bowls

Procedure:

Classroom Preparation

Set-up the play area in your classroom with appropriate materials to mimic a veterinary clinic. Use stuffed animals or animal toys to play the part of the patients. If you want to give your students the option to dress-up, consider purchasing costume lab coats, latex-free or cloth gloves, and surgical masks.

The medical supplies used in a veterinarian's office are quite similar to a human doctor's office – you can use toy medical tools from a kid's doctor kit (such as a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, thermometer, needle, etc.) or create your own supplies for the classroom. A tool that is specific to veterinarians is an e-collar, which is used to prevent an animal from licking a healing wound.

In the materials list on Page 1, we have given some recommendations for materials that can bring your classroom veterinary clinic to life. Be sure to have everything set-up before the students come to play in your classroom's dramatic play area.

Introduction

Tell your students that today they will pretend to be veterinarians taking care of patients in a clinic. Introduce them to the animals visiting the clinic that day and demonstrate how to safely play/use the tools you have provided. See below for examples of play your students can engage in.

Veterinary Clinic

There are endless possibilities for different types of play. Your students can:

- Practice bandaging patients using strips of gauze (or cut up strips of fabric)
- Provide medicine to animals using empty cups or jars. You can fill the empty cups with beads or cotton balls to mimic pills.
- Groom the animals by brushing their fur or using gloved hands to search for ticks and fleas.
- Write their medical findings on a clipboard with a patient chart (Page 3).
- Check the patient's heart and lungs with a toy stethoscope.
- Check the patient's ears with a toy otoscope or magnifying glass.
- Check the patient's eyes with a pen light/flashlight.
- Brush the patient's teeth with a soft toothbrush.
- Weigh the patient on a scale.
- Carefully place the patient in a carrier with a soft blanket on their trip to the veterinarian.
- Practice placing an e-collar on a patient who needs one.