

Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.

The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children’s early literacy skills through play.

Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.

Don’t forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.

Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go!

Dr Seuss

Make reading a special part of every day.

Before reading the book:

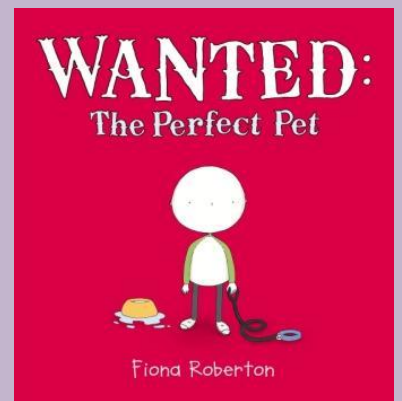
- Read the title of the book and look at the illustrations.
- Make predications with the children about what may happen in the story.

After reading the book:

- Start a discussion about pets, what is a pet, what pets the children have.
- Extend this discussion with a brainstorming session about different types pets.
- Make a chart of the different types of pets owned by the children.
- The children can help by illustrating the chart and counting how many of each type of pet.

Wanted Poster

- The children can create a wanted poster or advertisement for their perfect pet.
- Children can use magazines to cut out pictures of animals or draw their pet.
- An adult can help scribe some key words or use a computer to help children word process their advertisements.
- The advertisements can be collated to create a class newspaper.
- Children can bring in photos of their pets to display. If children don’t own a pet they could choose a picture that has been printed or copied, or draw their own.
- The children could carry their photo or picture around in a pretend pet parade.



Wanted: The Perfect Pet
Fiona Robertson

Notes

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Pet Book

- Make a book using copies of the children's pet photos, pictures or drawings and encourage the children to write in the book.
- It is important for the children to know that their writing can be for a purpose.
- Display the book where children can share it with friends and family.
- Set up a borrowing system where children can take it home to share.

Enjoying Imaginative Play

Disguise Box

- Create a "disguise box" using similar items that duck used in the story e.g. socks.
- Can the other children guess who is underneath the disguise?
- Make pet masks out of paper plates.
- Re-enact the story using props from the disguise box. An adult may need to read the story initially but as the children become more confident let them retell the story using their own words.

Perfect Pet Home

- Set up block corner with stuffed animals and encourage children to make homes for their pets such as kennels and stables.
- Include photos of different types of pet homes to provide the children with inspiration for their creations.

Being Creative Through Play

Create a Pet

- Children can create their own pets using play dough or clay.
- Display books, pictures or small plastic or wooden pets as models for the children.
- Provide materials such as googly eyes, matchsticks, pop sticks and feathers.
- The finished pets can be displayed in a pet shop.

Exploring Our World

Organise an excursion to an animal shelter or alternatively ask a representative from Animal Welfare League or RSPCA to come and speak to the children about responsible pet ownership.

More Books To Read:

Other books about special friends:

Eight by Lyn Lee & Kim Gamble

My Brown Bear Barney (series) by Dorothy Butler

Good Night Maisy by Lucy Cousins

One Ted Falls Out of Bed by Julia Donaldson

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

There's A Hippopotamus On Our Roof (series) by Hazel Edwards

Friends for Keeps (series) by Emma Quay and Anna Walker

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com

For information and strategies on developing friendships, imaginary friends and learning to share, try:

http://raisingchildren.net.au/behaviour/preschoolers_behaviour.html

Create a game with pictures of pets on one set of cards and pet homes on another set of cards. The children can then match the pets to their homes.

As a science activity gather several different types of pet food e.g. bird seed, dry cat and dog food. Place food in small snap lock bags and enable the children to examine food with magnifying glasses. Have a discussion about what ingredients may be in the food.

Enjoying Dramatic and Musical Play

Perfect Pet Games

- Play a game of *Dog Dog Cat*
This is played the same way as *Duck Duck Goose*.
- Play a game of *Doggy Doggy Who's Got Your Bone*.
You can change the animal to another pet and get the children to choose the pets food to hide.

Dress Up Day

- Have a dress up day where the children come dressed as their favourite pet.
- Stockings make great tails and masks can be made from paper plates.

Rhymes and songs

How Much Is That Doggy In The Window

How much is that doggy in the window
How much is that doggy in the window? (arf! arf!)
The one with the waggley tail
How much is that doggy in the window? (arf! arf!)
I do hope that doggy for sale

Oh where of where has my little dog gone
Oh where of where has my little dog gone
Oh where oh where can s/he be
With his/her ears cut short and his tail cut long
Oh where of where can s/he be?

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