

### Themes

#### Pet Friends


Cats, dogs, and a variety of other household pets will be the primary focus of this theme. Children will talk about caring for pets, learn about a veterinarian's job, and have an opportunity to share pictures or information about their own pets.

#### Gardening and Growing

Gardening offers plenty of hands-on work and fun! Children will learn about different types of plants that grow in gardens, the parts of a plant, and how to care for soil. Pollination, garden bugs, and gardening gear will also be highlighted.

#### Alphabet Words

yams, yarn, yoga, yogurt,  
zebra, zero, zinnia, zipper

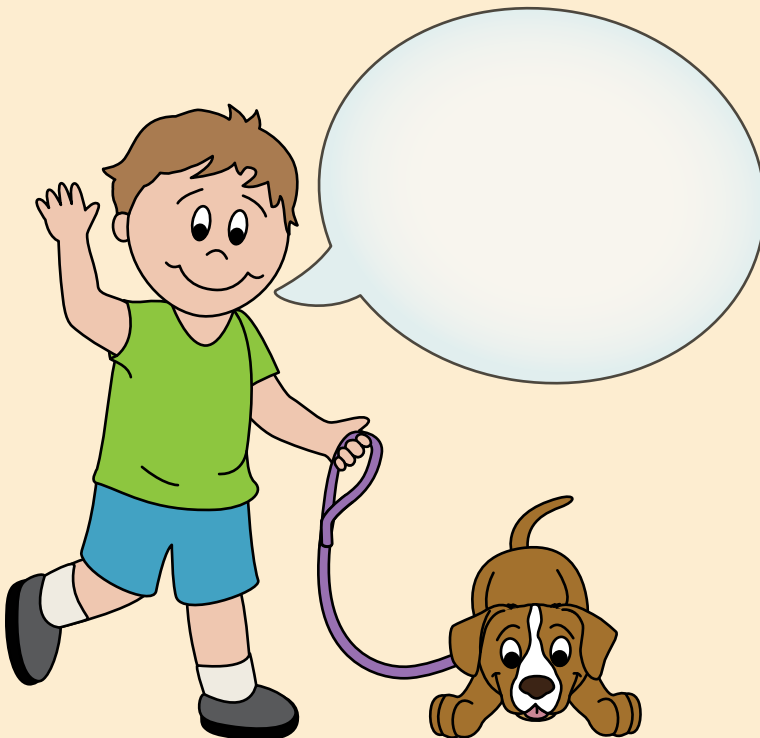
Color/ Shape	Letters/ Numbers
	Yy, Zz 19, 20

#### Sign Language



### Watch Me Learn!

Observe the picture with your child. Work together to fill in the conversation bubbles. You might want to start by saying a short sentence that will prompt your child to observe the scene and come up with more thoughts. If you choose, write down the story you created together and share it aloud.



# FAMILY CONNECTION

## Activities

### • Visit a Pet Shop

Take your child to visit a pet shop to look at a variety of different pets. Look at the animals' habitats. How is each one designed specifically for each animal? For example, how is a bird's cage different from the cages the hamsters are in? How does your child think a fish can breathe underwater? What is required to take care of a cat or dog?

### • Unstructured Play

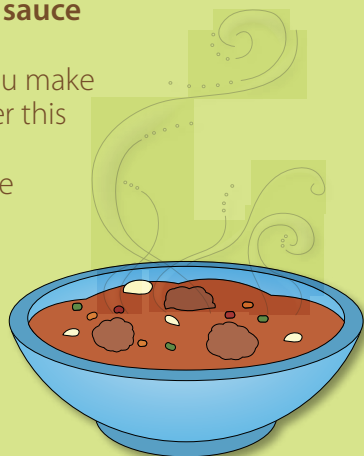
Foster and encourage your child's imagination and offer plenty of time for unstructured play, especially outdoors. Show enthusiasm and curiosity about your child's explorations. Make sure your child is safe, but refrain from negative reactions when he gets dirty, wet, or touches bugs, worms, etc. Bring nature items into your home, such as simple bouquets of flowers, leaves, or grass, and place them where your child can see them.

## Recipe

### Garden Stew

- 1 lb. ground beef or turkey
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 potatoes, diced
- 3 carrots, diced
- ½ cup frozen green beans
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 4 cups water
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. oregano
- 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce

Invite your child to help you make this stew to serve for dinner this week. Brown ground beef and onions. Drain. Add the remaining ingredients. Cook on medium heat for 20 minutes, and then simmer for 30 additional minutes or until vegetables are tender. Makes 6 servings.



## Songs

### Pet Care

Sung to "This Old Man"

Gentle hands, gentle hands,  
Handle pets with gentle hands.  
If you're rough, a pet won't like it very much.  
Always use a gentle touch.

Loving care, loving care,  
Handle pets with loving care.  
Oh, your pets need food and water every day,  
And they need time to run and play.



### Growing Plants

Sung to "Skip to My Lou"

What helps little plants to grow?  
Water helps them grow, I know.  
Rainfall or a garden hose,  
Helps to keep them growing.

Chorus:

Grow, grow, plants will grow.  
Grow, grow, plants will grow.  
Grow, grow, plants will grow,  
When we give them water.

What helps little plants to grow?  
Sunshine helps them grow, I know.  
Sunshine and its golden glow,  
Helps to keep them growing.

Repeat chorus.



## Book List

*If I Had a Dinosaur*  
by Gabby Dawnay

*A Ball for Daisy*  
by Chris Raschka

*I See a Kitty*  
by Yasmine Surovec

*The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!*  
by Mo Willems

*Rainbow Stew*  
by Cathryn Falwell

*Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*

by Candace Fleming

*Gwendolyn's Pet Garden*  
by Anne Renaud

*Jo MacDonald Had a Garden*

by Mary Quattlebaum