



“Pets”

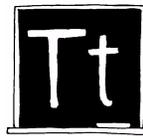
What’s new in our class this week

Through songs, rhymes, and fun activities, we are learning about

“Pets”!

This week we will talk about the different kinds of pets people keep. We will learn different words that describe pets, like long, tail, and fur. We will also learn what animals can and cannot be pets.

New Letter



Big “T” and little “t”

Some “T” words we will talk about are Turtle, Telephone, Tiger and Tomato!

Letter Talk

“Letter Talk” is what we use to help children learn how to form letters!

Letter Talk for big ‘T’

Straight line down. Cross at the top.

Letter Talk for little ‘t’

Straight line down. Cross on the line.

Use your finger to draw letters in the air or in the palm of your hand!

New Concept

Words make Sentences

Knowing that individual words make up sentences is an important concept as children begin to read and write. When children begin to write they may start by writing strings of letters. Help your child to learn about separating words with spaces as they write them down.

New Song

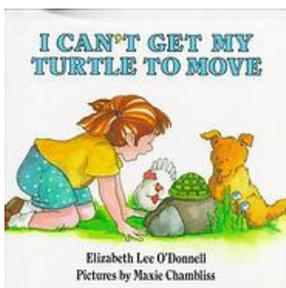


“Mary Had a Little Lamb”



New Book

“I Can’t Get My Turtle to Move” by Elizabeth Lee O’Donnell



I Can’t Get My Turtle to Move is a book about a young girl who is having a problem with her turtle. A lively group of animals will demonstrate the numbers 1 through 10, except for a lazy turtle, who will not move. In this book, we will be learning about number words (i.e. 1-one, 2-two) and continue to learn to make predictions about the girl and if she will be able to get her turtle to move.

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Finding the Perfect Pet

Many parents may not be aware of the advantages of having pets around the house with children. Any pet (a dog, cat, bird, hamster, reptile or fish) can help children gain a sense of independence and learn responsibility at an early age, as a caretaker. Fish make a terrific first pet, because children can play a big role in caring for them. Other pets may require more attention, but can provide a great parent-child bonding opportunity, as you both walk, feed or clean the pet.



The library would be a great place to start when making the decision to get a family pet. Check out books on different animals and the care they need. Read these books with your child and discuss

which animal would fit best into your family.

Reading to pets even improves children's fluency. With a pet as the listener, there is no threatening figure of authority (parent, teacher, older child) picking up on every error. Rather, the child can gain confidence and increase his or her fluency in reading.

Find a local animal shelter or search www.petfinder.com for pets available in your area.

Books related to theme

- "Arthur's New Puppy" by Marc Brown
- "Arthur's Pet Business" by Marc Brown
- "Pet Show!" by Ezra Jack Keats
- "The Pet that I Want" by Mary Packard

Try These Tips at Home

Teach your child about: Sentences

- Provide your child with cards or paper and help them write one word from a sentence on each card. Then lay the cards out in the correct order. This could also be made into a game by handing your child all the cards or paper and let your child try to put them in the correct order.
- When reading with your child, help your child count how many words are in a sentence.
- Go on a "sentence hunt" in the grocery store, while driving (billboards), or at the park. For instance, at the DMV, you might see a sign that says, "Please stand in line."
- Clap the words in a sentence. For example, you clap three times for the sentence, "I love Mommy."

Help your child learn the letters: T and t

- Play "I Spy" and look for things that begin with the letter "T". Give your child an empty toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tube to use as a "spotting scope" to look for things around the house that begin with "T".
- Make the letter "T" with your arms, hands, or using you and your child's body (by laying on the floor).

Help your child learn more about: Pets

- Talk with your child about any pets you had growing up. Explain to your child if it was a good pet to have and why or why not.
- Play a guessing game by making the sounds of different animals and having your child guess the animal. You might say, "Who am I? Meow" and your child will guess, "A cat!"

Book Pick: "Whose Tail" by Jeanette Rowe

This is a great flap book and will help your child learn to predict what will happen next in a story. On each brightly colored page, there is a little bit of an animal tail poking out, to give you a clue about what is under the flap. When you lift the flap, the animal that the tail belongs to is revealed! As you read the book with your child, give a clue as to whether or not the animal would make a good pet or not.

Whose Tail? is one of several books in the *Whose* series by Jeanette Rowe, which is filled with colorful illustrations that are attractive to young readers.

