


<p><b>Personal Social and Emotional Development</b></p> <p>Have a circle time to talk about favourite pets. Encourage children to pass a soft toy pet around the circle. When they are holding the toy, can they say their favourite pet and why? Encourage children to express their feelings and consider the feelings of others as they share their ideas. Encourage children to form friendships and play together by having a pet's picnic. Invite children to bring in a soft toy pet from home to have a picnic at the setting. Children can share food and drinks, create role-play food for their pets and ask each other about their pets. Children can take turns and play cooperatively to look after some soft toy pets in the setting. Encourage children to take turns to play games with the pets, look after them, show them around the setting and make homes for them.</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Encourage children to count sounds using our phonics knowledge. Listen carefully to how many times a word is mentioned in a story or song. Invite children to explore number bonds to ten by using a small basket and ten small world cats. How many are in the basket? Explore how many are not in the basket? How many altogether?</p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>Display photos of the children's pets or pictures of pets. Invite children to write a short sentence to describe one of the pets. Encourage children to blend sounds into words. Invite children to pick a bone, read the word and then feed it to the dog! Set up an adopt a pet reading activity. Invite children to choose a soft toy as a pet and choose a story to read to them. In a tray of straw, hide some a selection of these Phase 3 pet phonemes. Invite children to find a pet and read the phoneme shown.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>Create a dog agility course for children to use with soft toy dogs. Children can practise a range of movement skills, such as running between cones, walking along benches, jumping through hoops and crawling through tunnels as they help their pets complete the course. In an outside area, draw chalk paw prints on paths along the ground. Invite children to explore different ways of moving along the paths. Can they prowl like a cat? Jump like a rabbit? Run like a dog? Or slither like a snake? Provide a range of simple tools for children to use along with some playdough. Add some enhancements, such as googly eyes, buttons and pipe cleaners for children to use to make playdough pets. Decorate an empty cardboard box to look like a hamster. Cut a slot for the mouth and invite children to play a hungry hamster game by using tools, such as large tweezers or spoons to gather pom-poms to feed to the hungry hamster.</p>
 <p><b>The Secret Life of Pets</b> Spring 1</p>			
<p><b>Characteristics of Effective Learning</b></p> <p>I can respond to new experiences. I can make choices. I can correct my mistakes. I can take part in simple pretend play. I can make more links. I can concentrate on achieving something that is important to me.</p>	<p><b>Expressive Arts and Design</b></p> <p>Encourage children to explore different techniques to create artistic effects when painting pictures of their pets. They could drag a plastic fork across wet paint to create a furry effect or explore printing with different materials to create scales. Provide a range of soft toy animals for children to use to develop storylines in their play. Can they create a pet show storyline? Provide a range of empty packaging and construction toys for children to use to create homes for small world pets. Encourage them to share their creations with others and talk about their processes.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>Encourage children to explore the natural world by talking about their pets. If possible, a pet could be brought in. Children can ask questions to learn about the animal and how to look after it. Line a large activity tray with a sheet of paper. Provide pens for children to use to draw a simple map of a park. Provide small world people and dogs for children to use. Invite children to draw information from the map to describe a walk in the park. Encourage children to make observations of different types of pets. How are they similar? How are they different?</p>	<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>Encourage children to learn and use new vocabulary to describe pets and their babies. Introduce animal names, such as kitten, puppy, chick or pup along with adjectives, such as soft, fluffy, smooth and scaly. Invite children to work together to create a new version of the song, 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm'. Can they replace the farm animals with pets? What sounds could they include? Can they follow the same rhythm of the original song? Can they learn and perform their song? With the children, create a simple story about a pet show. Encourage the children to create an action for the different types of pets in the story. Can they listen carefully and complete the action each time that pet is mentioned?</p>