

A Visit to the Vet

Social Studies

Preschool and kindergarten

Objective

To understand similarities between veterinarians and doctors for humans.

Skill

Students will be able to identify the similarities between doctors who practice veterinary medicine and those who practice medicine for humans.

Materials

Props for students to set up an imaginary hospital learning/play center in the classroom. These may include: toy stethoscope, toy thermometer, lab coat, and bandages

Activity

Students will draw a pet's visit to a veterinarian's office and a person's visit to a doctor's office and describe what they have illustrated.

Helpful Background Information

- www.avma.org/care4pets/avmaanim.htm
- www.petdental.com

Procedure

1. Ask students what they do when they are sick. Whom do they tell? What person do they visit?
2. Discuss what a doctor does to examine and treat patients (e.g., uses a thermometer to take temperatures, gives shots or medicine to get rid of germs or relieve pain, uses a stethoscope to listen to breathing and heartbeats).
3. Identify veterinarians as animal doctors who use similar tools and techniques for examining and treating animal patients. Show a toy pet animal or a picture of a pet. What would a veterinarian use to listen to an animal's heartbeat? What would he or she use to take an animal's temperature?
4. Have students draw pictures of pets in a veterinarian's office and people in a doctor's office and dictate captions to you.
5. Students can then act out the roles of doctor and veterinarian in the imaginary classroom hospital. Allow plenty of free time for exploration in the classroom hospital and, if possible, arrange for a field trip to a veterinary clinic.