

# 'WHAT DO I NEED?'

This delightful poster depicting four lively pets is sure to capture children's interest. Identify and describe the detailed images surrounding the pets



## How to use the poster

Use the poster to inspire imaginative ideas related to animals and pets, for example, within an outdoor 'Pets' corner', or an indoor role play pet shop featuring soft toy pets.

Display the poster as the centrepiece of an interactive 'Caring for growing pets' display linked to this issue's theme of 'Growth'. Provide examples of real accessories related to looking after animals, such as a bowl, brush, collar, basket/bed, and so on, on a table below, and link these to the poster images with ribbon. Visit a local vet and pick up some leaflets about caring for animals, to display too.

## Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Put a selection of objects similar to those surrounding the poster pets into a bag. Sit a toy fish, bird, guinea pig and dog on the floor and take turns to pull an object from the bag. Talk about how it would help one of the pets to grow strong and healthy and put it next to that pet. If an unsuitable object is chosen, such as a wellington boot, discuss why this would not be suitable for the pet.
- Invite children to choose three items from the outer poster images that they would like to have as special treats; for example, a bar of chocolate, a bag of sweets and a cake. What would be suitable treats for the poster pets? Discuss the children's choice of treats.

### Communication, Language and Literacy

- Spread two hoops on the ground with the word 'yes' in one and 'no' in the other and place the poster between. Hold up a word card representing one of the smaller images and invite the children to read it, with support if necessary. Find the corresponding image and decide if it would be suitable for a growing pet before putting it in the 'yes' or 'no' hoop.
- Invite children to decide which poster pet they would most like to look after and why. Suggest that they draw a picture of this pet surrounded by words about what it would need for healthy growth. Use the poster and word cards to help with ideas and spelling.

### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Create coloured card rings slightly bigger than each small poster image. Identify the things a fish would use and cover them with rings of the same colour. Repeat with the other pets, using different coloured rings. Count how many rings link to each pet and put a plastic numeral on the image. Pose questions, for example: *Have all the pets got the same number of rings?*
- Print the online-only 'What do I need?' activity cards and play sorting and matching games, for example, laying them on top of the same poster image.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Ask appropriate questions to identify similarities and differences in the poster pets, for example: *Which pet has a beak/wings/feathers?; How many pets have four legs?* Discuss differences in the pets' diets, referring to small images such as vegetables, seeds and fish food.
- Discuss the poster pets' homes, pointing out the fish bowl, hutch and cage. Talk about how a dog might sleep in a basket or kennel, but could also share a home with humans, and also how some pet fish live in bowls and others in tanks or garden ponds.

### Physical Development

- Label four corners of a room 'fish', 'bird', 'dog' and 'guinea pig'. Play music and ask the children to run to a corner when it stops. Choose a pet using an arrow spinner from a board game placed in the centre of a laminated version of the poster. All children in that 'pet' corner must sit down. Continue until you find a winner.
- Discuss how the poster pets are moving – 'swimming', 'flying', 'standing still' and 'walking'. Invite children to adopt these poses. Talk about which pet can be trained to follow commands such as 'sit', 'give a paw' and 'fetch'. In pairs pretend to be dogs and owners, giving commands and following them.

### Creative Development

- Ask children to share experiences of keeping pets. Do any of them have a pet like one from the poster? Talk about the things that each poster pet needs, such as food, drink, shelter, exercise and love. Search for items around the poster that might provide these necessities. Create paintings of a chosen pet surrounded by drawings of things it needs to grow strong and keep healthy.
- In groups, choose a small world model of one of the poster pets and create a home for it with recycled materials.

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