

Children and Zoology

Children by their very nature are interested in animals. They are fascinated by the fact that, like themselves, they possess life and character. A class pet will immediately become the main attraction when a child enters the school.

Depending on space or allergies, teachers can decide whether or not to have a class pet. Some animals such as fish, insects and reptiles require little care, but any small mammal will need more attention and extra care in handling.

When we decide to introduce an animal into the classroom, the animal's characteristics are studied with the children – habits, dietary needs, handling. The children take an active part in the responsibilities that having a pet entails. Together they feed, clean cages and observe the habits of the cherished pet.



Taking time to observe the animal when it is eating, resting, or building a nest can evolve into a detailed discussion of the habits of like animals in the wild. Nomenclature cards are a natural extension of observation, as is the study of class and subclass animals.

When indoor animals are not an option, children interact with outdoor animals or bird life. Before they interact, the children must realize that the animals are wild and will never become pets which they can hold and pet.

The Main Themes under Zoology are:

- Vertebrates and Invertebrates
- Classes of Animal Folders
- Animals of the World
- The Fish
- The Frog
- The Turtle
- The Bird
- Introducing a Bird Feeder
- The Horse