

PRESCHOOL

READ

In English

Baby Monkey, Private Eye (2018) by Brian Selznick. This hilarious preschool noir topped almost every “best-of” list of 2018. Also makes a good early reader.

Bark, George! (1999) by Jules Feiffer. This book is a perennial list-topper for good reason: Preschoolers are sure to see the hilarity in George’s meowing and oinking.

Busy People: Vet (2015) by Lucy M. George and AndoTwin. Colorful illustrations and a great conversation-starter.

Doctor Mouse (2020) by Christa Kempter and Amélie Jackowski. A whimsical comedy about a mouse attending to his animal patients.

Good Dog, Paw! (2004) by Chinlun Lee. Paw the vet’s dog accompanies her to work.

I’m a Veterinarian (2016) by Brian Biggs. A day in the life of an animal doctor.

If I Ran the Zoo (1950) by Dr. Suess. Wild rhymes and fantastic zoo animals in this storytime classic.

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles (2018) by Patricia Valdez and Felicita Sala. A winning STEM title with vibrant depictions of amazing reptiles, including a Komodo dragon. Good for a slow read-aloud, pausing to ask questions along the way.

Sally Goes to the Vet (2004) by Stephen Huneck. A injured dog visits the vet and lives to recount the tale to his friend the cat.

Bilingual/Spanish

Dos en el zoológico/Two at the Zoo (2011) by Danna Smith and Valeria Petrone. An engaging bilingual read-aloud with expressive animals. (Bilingual)

El cuento de Ferdinando (1988) by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson. A lively, playful rendition of a Spanish classic. (Spanish; also available in English)

Oso quiere volar (2016) by Susanna Isern and Silvia Álvarez. The bear who wants to fly has all the other forest animals talking. (Spanish; also available in English)

BILINGUAL STORYTIME TIP:

You can run a fully bilingual storytime in one of two ways: One bilingual person reads a story in both languages, or one English-speaker and one Spanish-speaker each lead activities in their respective languages. The latter takes more coordination, but if there are no Spanish-speakers at your library, it might be worth bringing in a special guest!

PRESCHOOL

SING

Song: I'm a Vet

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

If your dog is really sick,
Bring it to me quick, quick, quick.
I help kitties and hamsters too.
And sometimes cows, moo, moo, moo.
I love animals so I am a vet.
I will help your favorite pet.

Song: El Veterinario

To the tune of the "I'm a Little Tea Pot."

El veterinario ya llegó
La mascota rescató
Perros, gatos y león
Hasta el hipo que's pelón
El veterinario es su doctor
Las mascotas están mejor

Song: The Animals in George

This song goes with a storytime reading of *Bark, George!* Sing to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."

The cat in George goes meow, meow, meow...all through the town.
The duck in George goes quack, quack, quack...
The pig in George goes oink, oink, oink...
The cow in George goes moo, moo, moo...
The person in George goes "Hello, hello..."

Rhyme: Colita de Rana

Simple rhyme about healing a frog (*una rana*) with an injured tail. A good lead-in to the veterinarian theme. More play ideas from Spanish Playground: <https://bit.ly/2yQ3Hnr>

Sana, sana,
Colilita de rana
Si no sanas hoy
Sanarás mañana

EARLY LITERARY TIP:

Children's picture books contain more rare words than children typically hear on television. Tell caregivers to talk to their children about these words when they come across them, rather than replacing them with simpler words. They can also look up words together.

PRESCHOOL

Song: The Animals at the Zoo

Sing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Easily modified for any animal or theme. Idea from *Preschool Book Club* blog: <https://bit.ly/2SXYTDt>

The snake at the zoo goes hiss hiss hiss...all day long.

The lion at the zoo goes roar roar roar...all day long.

Song: We're Going to the Zoo

To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

We're going to the zoo, we're going to the zoo!

Hi, ho, it's off we go, we're going to the zoo!

We'll see some monkeys there, we'll see some monkeys there.

Swinging, climbing in the trees, we'll see some monkeys there.

We'll see some tigers there, we'll see some tigers there,

Roaring, pouncing, playing about, we'll see some tigers there.

We'll see some penguins there, we'll see some penguins there.

Waddling, diving, swimming around, we'll see some penguins there.

Song: Vamos al Zoológico

Lyrics from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Sample or purchase full song here: <https://amzn.to/3fHYjDj>

Iremos al zoológico con mami mañana,

Con mami mañana, con mami mañana,

Iremos al zoológico con mami mañana

Será un día sensacional

Chorus:

Animales voy a ver, puedes venir también

Muy divertido es, qué día vamos a tener

Verses:

Veré a los monitos colgados en las ramas

Colgados en las ramas, colgados en las ramas

Veré a los monitos colgados en las ramas

Balanceándose hasta volar

Repeat chorus

Veré a los cocodrilos jugando en el agua,

Jugando en el agua, jugando en el agua,

Veré a los cocodrilos jugando en el agua,

Chapoteando sin cesar

Repeat chorus and first verse

PLAY / TAKE HOME

Cutting Practice

Print copies of the Cutting Practice worksheet and provide multiple sets of safety scissors.

Coloring Station

For passive play, set out kitten coloring sheets and crayons (see Printables). Alternatively, let caregivers take the coloring sheets home.

Veterinarian Pretend Play

Set up a play area in the children's section. You will need:

- Stuffed animals
- Doctor toys (white lab coats, stethoscopes, etc.)
- Empty pill bottles filled with beads/beans and glued shut
- A grooming station (set brushes and empty shampoo/conditioner bottles next to a plastic bin)
- Food bowls and containers filled with pom-poms
- Large felt bandages
- Icon labels for food, shampoo/conditioner, and pill bottles (see Printables)

See veterinarian play checklist here: <https://bit.ly/2WN9d24>

EARLY LITERACY TIP:

Cutting strengthens hand muscles and hand-eye coordination in preparation for writing.

TIP:

While marketed for young children, jumbo crayons and markers are sometimes more difficult for little hands to grip. Whenever possible, put out both sizes and let children choose which ones they like best.

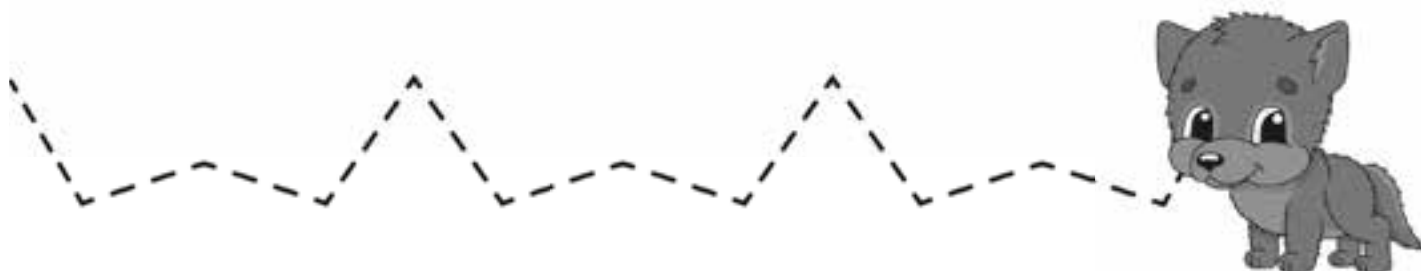
APP SUGGESTION:

Toca Pet Doctor (Apple/Android, \$3.99)

This app invites children to help heal a roomful of injured animals. As the motions are not obvious at first, adults can engage with children by discussing what happened to each animal and what children might do to help.

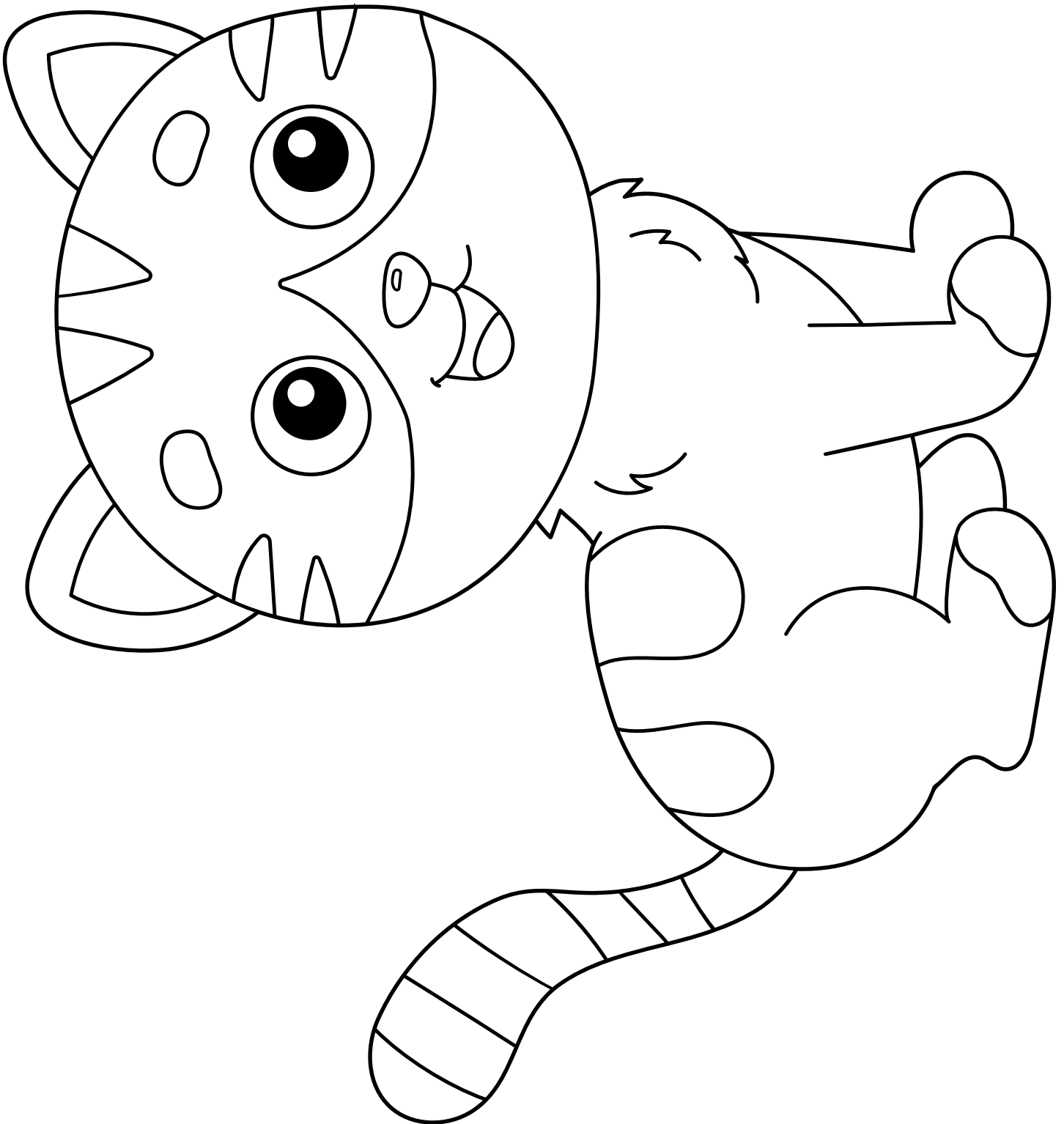
Cutting Practice (Puppies)

Cutting practice



PRINTABLE

Kitten Coloring Sheet



RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Veterinarian Play Icons (1)

Pet & Vet icons



Veterinarian Play Icons (2)

