

PRESCHOOL

READ

In English

Ah-choo! (2016) by Lana Koehler. Encourage children to sneeze along in this book about a menagerie of potential pets.

Baby's First Bank Heist (2019) by Jim Whalley and Stephen Collins. Baby robs a bank for the money to fill his house with surprising pets. Dark and hilarious, with silly details.

Birdsong (2019) by Julie Flett. An intergenerational friendship amidst bird-song and changing seasons. Includes some Cree-Métis words and a glossary.

Children Make Terrible Pets (2010) by Peter Brown. A joyful and upbeat read-aloud about a surprising role reversal. Preschool and up.

I Am a Wolf (2019) by Kelly Leigh Miller. A stray dog with a prickly personality knows he will find the perfect home. Goofy and great.

I Need a Hug (2019) by Aaron Blabey. Jaunty rhymes make for a great read-aloud about a prickly porcupine.

I See a Kookaburra (2016) by Steve Jenkins. Camouflaged animals and all sorts of habitats. Playful and engaging introduction to ecology.

I Want a Dog (2019) by Jon Agee. A little girl goes to an animal shelter looking for a dog only to be presented with an array of unusual pets. A lively and playful read-aloud.

Madeline Finn and the Shelter Dog (2019) by Lisa Papp. A reassuring accompaniment to any pet or pet-adoption theme.

Pig the Pug (2016) by Aaron Blabey (or any *Pig the Pug* book). A laugh-along book about a pet pug who does not share.

Some Pets (2016) by Angela DiTerlizzi and Brenden Wenzel. A vibrant book about different types of pets. Includes breezy facts about how they move, make sounds, eat, and show affection.

Sparky! (2014) by Jenny Offill. A girl gets a pet sloth. Beautiful pictures for sloth-lovers but more suited to one-on-one reading than storytime.

Strictly No Elephants (2015) by Lisa Mantchev and Taeheeun Yoo. A tale of friendship and inclusion in which a multiethnic group of children create a club for their unusual pets.

Truman (2019) by Jean Reidy and Lucy Ruth Cummins. Making almost every "best of" list of 2019, this story about Truman the pet tortoise is a heart-warming take on the first day of school. Great for kindergarten prep.

TIP:

For nonfiction picture books about pet care, see Chapter 05: Pet Expo.

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Welcome Home, Bear: A Book of Animal Habitats (2015) by Il Sung Na (or anything by Il Sung Na). A captivating story about habitats around the world, concluding with bear's own home, sweet, home.

Wolfie the Bunny (2015) by Ame Dyckman. Storytime hit about sibling rivalry and what happens when a baby wolf arrives in the bunny family.

Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku (2011) by Lee Wardlaw and Eugene Yelchin. A fun read-aloud about a cat who adopts a boy. Captivating illustrations.

Bilingual/Spanish

Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems / Alteo y zumbido: Poemas de animales (2015) by Julie Paschkis. (Bilingual)

Mango, Abuela, and Me (2017) by Meg Medina and Angela Dominguez. A parrot facilitates multigenerational, multilingual communication. (English with Spanish words)

Mi oso grande, mi oso pequeño y yo (2019) by Margarita del Mazo and Rocio Bonilla. 2019. A little girl goes sledding with her two bears, with a tribute to dads. (Spanish; also available in English)

Randall and Randall (2019) by Nadine Poper and Poline Gortman. This silly undersea tale about symbiosis is a great STEM storytime choice for a habitat and/or ocean theme. (English with Spanish words)

SING

Movement: I Saw a Little Bird In My Backyard

Once I saw a little bird go hop, hop, hop	(hop)
So I cried to little bird,	
Won't you stop, stop, stop?	(put hand out to stop)
I went to the window to say how do you do?	(wave hello)
But he shook his little tail	(shake backside)
And far away he flew	(flap arms)

Song: Mi Perro

To the tune of "I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumble Bee"

Cuido de mi perro
Con amor
Todos los dias
Le doy de comer

Cuido de mi perro
Con amor
Ahhh que rico! Guau guau

REMEMBER THE CLASSICS!

"How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" and "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" also work well for a pet theme.

TIP:

For more great pet songs, try "Guess My Friend" and "Dogs and Cats and Guinea Pigs" in *Animal Shenanigans* (2015) by Rob Reid.

PRESCHOOL

Cuido del gato
Sin cesar
Juega, come
Y caza el ratón

Cuido del gato
Sin cesar
Miau, que feliz estoy!

PLAY / TAKE HOME**Animal/Habitat Rhyme Cubes**

To turn square tissue boxes into rhyming cubes, wrap them with brown craft paper and write a different rhyming word on each side. One cube has animal rhyming words (e.g., fish, bug, bat, dog, cat, ant), and one cube has habitat rhyming words (e.g., sun, tree, rock, sand, hot, cold). Roll the cubes as a group and encourage children to brainstorm rhymes.

Bean Bag Animal Targets

Children take turns tossing bean bags at pictures of animals taped to the wall (or attached to a box). Before each throw, children say something about the animal—where it lives, what sound it makes, how it moves, etc.

Pet and Habitat Puzzles

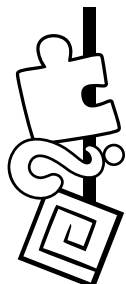
See Printables for counting and matching puzzles for preschoolers to do in the library or take home.

Spanish/English

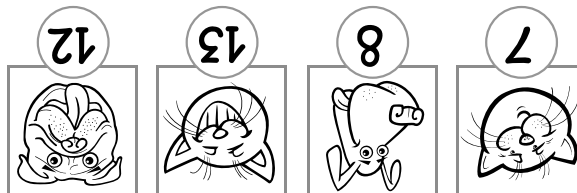
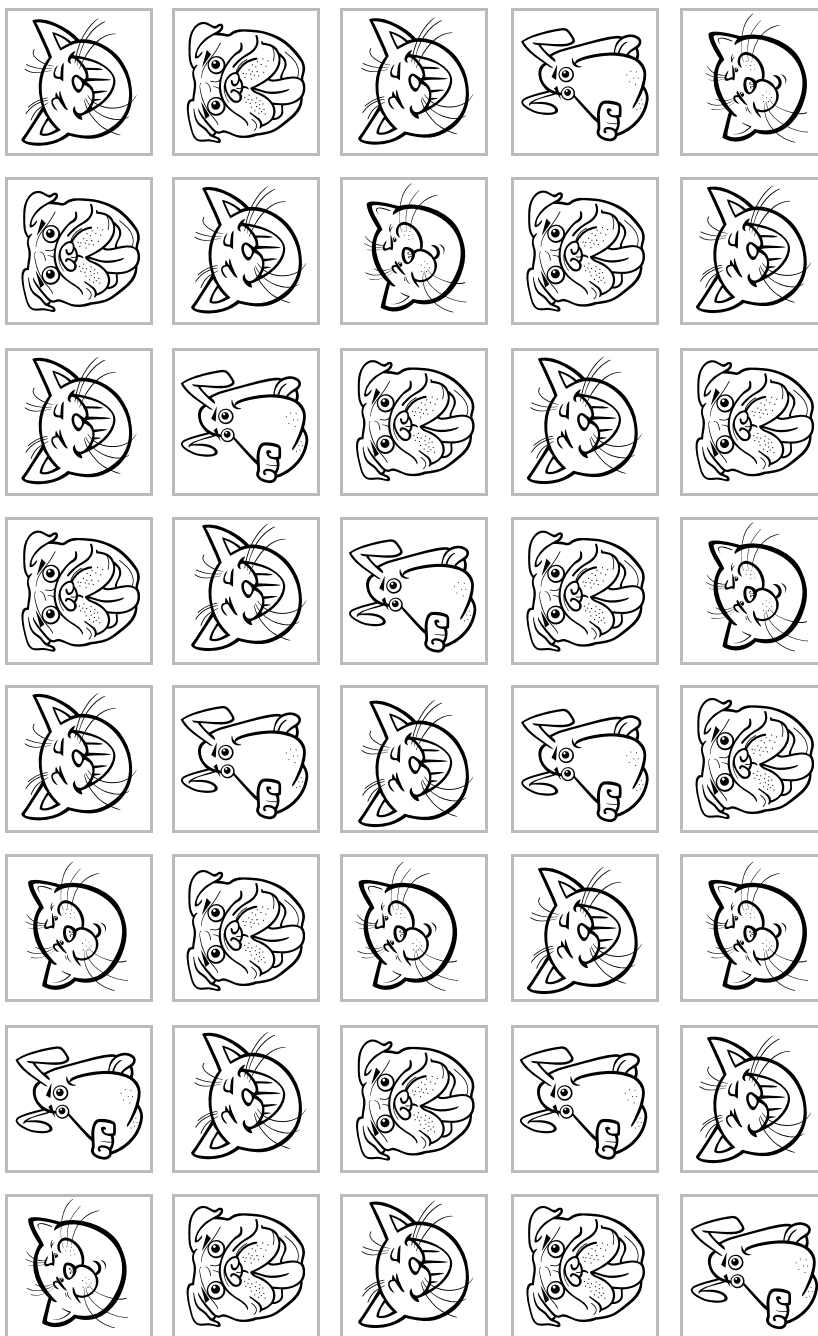
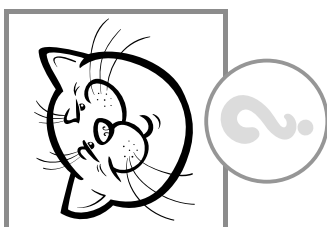
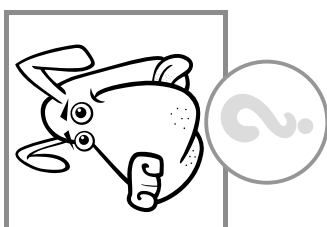
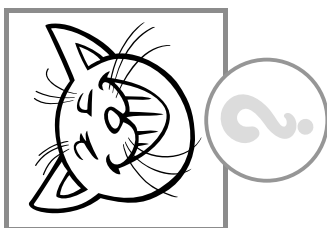
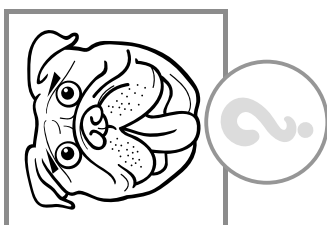
el perro = dog
el gato = cat

**EARLY
LITERACY TIP:**

Playing with different shapes (e.g., blocks and puzzles) prepares children for both reading and math.



HOW MANY?



PRINTABLE

Animal Home Matching

Match the creatures with their homes

