



Animal Encounters *for Kindergarten students*

In this program, kindergarten students are introduced to and allowed to touch a variety of small animals.

They are encouraged to use their senses to gather information about the animals and determine characteristics of the animals that help them survive in their environment. For example, the chinchilla has a thick fur coat that helps keep it warm high up in the mountains where it lives.

Students also are encouraged to sort or classify the animals based on the characteristics they observe. For example, if the animal has feathers it must be a bird.

This 30-minute program can be presented at the Zoo or in the school classroom, but **NOT in the school cafeteria** because of the live animals.

“Animal Encounters” is aligned to Kindergarten Life Sciences Standard 1.
1. Organisms can be described and sorted by their physical characteristics.

**To schedule this program,
or for more information,
call 561-1452, ext. 125.**

Post-Zoo activity

Animal Encounters

Objective:

Develop students' powers of observation and review vocabulary learned in Zoo program.

Suggested grade levels: Pre-K – 1

Content areas/Standards:

Science, language arts, art, math

Activity 1. Language Development

Ask student volunteers to pick one of the animals presented by the Zoo

Docent. Ask them to describe, in words:

How it LOOKED

How it FELT

How it SMELLED

What SOUNDS it made

Where it LIVES (in the wild)

What it EATS

ANYTHING ELSE that was interesting about that animal

Activity 2. Reading Readiness and Art

Materials: paper and pencil, crayon, etc.

Write on the chalkboard the first letter of the animals the students saw in the Zoo program. Have them make each letter into an animal. (Example: Show an example with the letter "S" by turning it into a snake – draw in head, and color body).

Activity 3. Math Development

Ask students to show with fingers:

How many ANIMALS they saw

How many TAILS

How many NOSES

How many EYES

How many GRAY animals

How many FEET