

Theme: Dogs

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Dog-Dog-Cat! (aka Duck-Duck-Goose)
- Musical chairs – put a picture of a dog on the chair for whoever's "it"
- Play catch with a ball ("fetch")
- Drop dog bones into a jar (eye-hand coordination)
- "Doggie-in-the-Ditch" (aka Devil-in-the-Ditch)
- "Chase" – dogs love to chase each other; let the kids chase each other, too!
- Bean Bag Toss – bean bags shaped like bones.
- Dog or Bone Shape Hop – cut out large shapes from colored paper, laminate and place on floor. Ask children to hop from one shape to another.

Math Activities:

- Count dogs in the flannel board activity
- Match dogs in a folder game
- Sort dogs by size or color and make a bar graph to show the numbers
- Sort pictures of dogs by 1) real, 2) cartoon, 3) fictional.
- Play dog bingo.
- Dog or bone shape match up – match bones of the same color or shape.

Science Activities:

- Examine dog hair under a microscope or magnifying glass
- Look at pictures or posters showing the anatomy of a dog
- Talk about the different types of dogs – How are they different? How are they alike?

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

Make puzzles out of dog pictures glued onto foam core board. Children will have fun putting them together!

Lacing Cards – cut colored poster paper into dog or bone shapes and punch holes around the edges; children can lace yarn or shoestrings into the cards.

Snacks:

Scooby Snacks (graham crackers shaped like dog bones)

Sugar cookies made in the shape of a dog or bone – let children decorate with frosting and sprinkles.

Fruit snacks shaped like dogs

Hot dogs

Corn dogs

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Post lots of doggie pictures around the room. Possible field trips: Visit the vet's office or a dog groomer's or an animal shelter with the children. Visit a pet store or kennel.

What do working dogs do? Have visitors come to introduce children to a working dog for the blind, or a policeman come talk about police dogs and how they help.

Songs & Fingerplays:

See fingerplay cards.

Dramatic Play:

Be sure to supply plenty of stuffed dogs, leashes and collars, bandanas, pet carriers, pet dishes, etc. Children can pretend to dress up their dogs and practice taking care of them. Put toy dogs in the block area.

Books:

Snuggle Puppy: A Little Love Song, by Sandra Boynton
Doggies, by Sandra Boynton
Dog, by Matthew Van Fleet
Where's Spot? by Eric Hill
The Gift of Nothing, by Patrick McDonnell
Harry the Dirty Dog, by Gene Zion
Biscuit, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Biscuit Finds a Friend, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Good Dog, Carl, by Alexandra Day
Baby Einstein: Dogs, by Julie Aigner-Clark
Move Over, Rover! by Karen Beaumont
Good Boy, Fergus! by David Shannon
Clifford: The Big Red Dog, by Norman Bridwell
That's Not My Puppy: Its Coat is Too Hairy, by Fiona Watt
Clifford the Small Red Puppy, by Norman Bridwell

Go Away, Dog, by Joan L. Nodset
Carl's Afternoon in the Park, by Alexandra Day
Hot Dog, by Molly Coxe
Just Me and My Puppy, by Mercer Mayer
Dog Food, by Saxton Freymann
Puppies! by John E. Barrett
Please, Puppy, Please, by Spike Lee
Biscuit Wins a Prize, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Sailor Dog, by Margaret Wise Brown
Ivan the Terrier, by Peter Catalanotto
Mister Dog, by Margaret Wise Brown
No Matter What, by Debi Gliori
Where's Spot? by Eric Hill
A Dog Needs a Bone! by Audrey Wood
Puppy Mudge Takes a Bath, by Cynthia Rylant

Art:

Cookie cutter art: Let children dip a dog- or bone-shaped cookie cutter into tempera paint that's been spread out onto a paper plate or something, then press their cookie cutter down onto a piece of construction paper.

Adopt-a-Dog: Cut out various shapes ahead of time that the children can use to create construction paper dogs. Let them decorate the dogs with sequin "collars", etc., and use for the dog parade or adopt-a-dog activities in circle time. This process could take 2-3 days to complete.

Dog hole-art: Cut a dog shape out of a sheet of paper; let children paint around the dog.

Collage: Let children cut pictures of dogs out of magazines and create a collage.

Bandanas: Children can paint squares of fabric to make bandanas for their dogs (real or stuffed).

Torn Paper Dogs: Let children tear pieces of brown paper to glue onto a sheet of white paper to make a dog. Other colored paper may also be used.

Dog Ear Headbands: Let children cut ears out of construction paper to glue onto a headband. Good to use for a doggie parade!

Clifford: Cut paper in the shape of a dog and let children paint it red for Clifford! Have a whole day of Clifford stories and activities!

Circle Time Activities:

Cut-and-Tell: Tell a dog story using a cut-and-tell process. As you're telling children the story, cut out paper dogs in paper-doll fashion. As you finish the story, finish the dogs and open them up to reveal a string of puppy dogs! Kids love this!

Show and Tell: Let children bring their favorite toy dog from home or a photo of their real dog to introduce the dog to the group. If they don't have either, the child might want to select his favorite toy dog from your child care to introduce to the group. Children can tell the name of the dog, any tricks the dog knows, what he likes to eat/play, where he likes to sleep, etc.

Pet Parade: Children can have a doggie parade carrying around the dog art they made earlier in the day. Let children name their dogs and "dress them up" for the parade. Play some lively music for marching.

Dog Care: Talk about what we can do to take care of our dogs. If possible, have a vet come talk to the class—or visit a veterinarian's office as a field trip. You could also invite a dog groomer to come talk to the children about cleaning their dogs.

Likenesses and Differences: Show pictures of real dogs and talk about how they are alike and how they are different. This is a good time to talk about the different breeds, sizes of dogs, etc.

Training Dogs: Demonstrate with your own pet, if you have one, how to teach a dog to do tricks. If you know someone who is good at that, have him/her come over and talk to the children.

Adopt-a-Dog: Let the children do some dog art, name their dogs, and have an adopt-a-dog day! You can display pictures of the dogs around the room and write the dogs' names on cards next to them. Keep them up all week so the children can continue talking about their make-believe dogs.

Flannel board activity: Count dogs, group by color, put in order from shortest to tallest and vice versa.

SING!!!

Seat markers: Dog bones cut from different colored paper – or write the child's name on a bone shape and laminate. This will help separate "active" children during circle time. :)

Dog Bone Hide and Seek: Tell the children if they are "hot" or "cold" as they take turns trying to find the stuffed dog or the dog bone/toy.