



COMMUNITY ROLES -VET CLINIC

Materials you need:

- A table covered in a vinyl tablecloth
- Soft toys and figurines of animals
- Real bandages and Band-Aids
- Cardboard boxes, dolly beds or washing baskets to help create pet cages and beds for the pet patients.
- Blankets and handtowels or scarfs
- Simple doctor props like stethoscope, thermometer, white coat, tweezers, cotton balls, cotton buds, pieces of kitchen sponge cut to make little pads.
- Old diary and some pens (for the receptionist!)

Setup for play:

- Set up an invitation to take on the role of vet and customer by placing all the items on the table to create a vet surgery.
- Invite children to bring their pets in to be fixed then stand back and watch the play evolve. It's better to let the children lead their play on this one as you have already provided the resources to work with. Now it's time for the imagination to shine!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children take on the role of Vet they are learning to:

- Use their sense of touch, sight and smell to make choices and create
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Work together in a group with others
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and hands on investigation
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Manipulate equipment and real life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose materials
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Acknowledge and understand different roles in their community

Extending the play:

- Go on an excursion to the local vet in your community to see the role firsthand.
- Read stories that feature vets or watch a video of vets in action.
- Ask children what differences there might be for city and country vets.

