

Kids and animals



Teaching kids to care for animals

Learning to care for animals provides an invaluable experience for your child.

Introducing your child to animals

The lure of all things cute and fluffy is irresistible to most children and many adults – but you don't need to have your own pets to get your little ones used to animals.

Learning to care for animals and treat them with kindness is an experience that children can easily transfer to their relationships with other humans too – it helps to build empathy, understanding and respect for both their peers and adults.

But how can you provide your child with this valuable experience without having to go down the route of actually owning a pet?

Start in your local park or garden

Little children tend to have quick, jerky, unpredictable movements which can frighten animals – not a good start for a positive relationship between child and animal!

The best place to start exploring the wonders of the animal kingdom is in your back garden or local park where children can see creatures in their natural habitat.

Watching beetles, worms, ants and spiders go about their busy lives is fascinating to young children.

Look together under stones and leaves and talk about how the mini beasts move, what they eat and what they look like. Gradually, it will begin to dawn on your child that these are active living creatures just like them.

The 'a-ha' moment of realisation that animals need care, attention and kindness is the moment to cherish. The breakthrough can come when your child strokes the cat with a gentle hand, or lifts the hamster onto her lap – being careful not to drop them.

It takes time to foster this kind of respect – but it's well worth it as all these emotions of tenderness are transferred to the way they interact with other children and adults.

Source

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/all-creatures-great-and-small>
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Reading

1. Which of the following best describes the intended audience for this article?

- a. primary school teachers
- b. children under 10 years old
- c. parents of young children
- d. dog owners

This question tests your ability to identify the audience of a text. Use inference and deduction skills to analyse the language and content.

2. Which of the following words could replace 'lure' in the article without changing the meaning of the text?

- a. entice
- b. tempt
- c. appeal
- d. trap

This question tests your ability to understand the meaning of a word in context.

3. Which of the following can be a problem for young children and animals, according to the article?

- a. Young children are often cruel to animals and could hurt them.
- b. Young children can be unpredictable in their movements.
- c. Animals will not obey young children.
- d. Animals will be boisterous around young children.

This is a retrieval question. You need to read and understand the text to find the correct answer.

4. In your own words, describe the benefits of introducing children to animals according to the article.

This is a paraphrasing question. You need to retrieve the information from the article and rewrite it in your own words.

Writing

8. Choose a specific type of pet. Research and write an article, aimed at parents of young children, about how best to handle the introduction of the child and the animal you have chosen. Write 200-300 words.