



Social and Emotional Development

Activity for 24 to 30 Months

Care for the Animals

Toddlers have a difficult time taking on another person's perspective. Having them help someone who is hurt or sick will help them understand, to a limited degree, others have feelings.

Materials:

- Stuffed and plastic animals
- Small boxes or berry baskets
- Napkins or small scarves

What to do:

1. Help the child gather her favorite stuffed and plastic animals.
2. Provide small boxes or berry baskets for her to use as cages or carriers. She can use napkins or small scarves as blankets.
3. Talk to her about the ways in which animals get hurt: how they cut their paws, get bugs in their ears, break their wings, or get stomachaches.
4. Help her care for her sick animals by washing and bandaging their wounds, wrapping their broken limbs with gauze, and giving them a quiet place to sleep (plus lots of pats and kind words).
5. Provide a toy doctor's kit to give the animals a thorough examination.

Safety alert! Make sure the animals are more than 1 3/4 inches in diameter so they won't pose a choking hazard.

