

Lesson Plan: Melinda Gabbard

Adapted Curriculum Class Teacher at Bowie Middle School, Amarillo, TX

Our classes are designed to provide instruction in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Life Skills for students grade 6-8 with intellectual disabilities.

We currently have 2 salamanders, 1 bearded dragon ( purchased with a grant from Pets in the Classroom) , a Chilean rose legged tarantula, & 4 fish tanks. I hope to add a tree frog and a part time classroom dog this fall.

Lesson Plans for our students regarding our classroom pets are designed for all 5 curricular areas.

Science:

- Basic characteristics of animals: reptiles, amphibians and fish
- Basic ecosystem information for these groups of animals
- Food web/ food chain information for these 3 groups of animals
- Care/ feeding of these animals

Math:

- Amount of food for animals/ cost per animal per month/ week/ day
- # of fish can be used for any math problem: +, -, x and division
- # of animals of each kind in our building
- Sorting/ categorizing animals

Reading/ Language Arts:

- Reading activities related to animal topics: middle school boys love reptiles & amphibians. Highly motivating reading material.
- Comprehension activities with subject matter: animals
- Writing activities re: scheduling/ care/ characteristics of animals

Social Studies:

- Biomes/ habitats of animals and location in the world
- Natural animals of our area

Life Skills:

- Nutrition/ diet training- comparison of pets to people
- Responsibility of feeding/ caring for pets
- Turn Taking
- Sharing
- Conversation starters

I've found that animals are great tools for educating children in many ways. I have loved having creatures in our classrooms.

Thanks for your consideration,

Melinda Gabbard

Bowie ACC

Amarillo, TX