

Pets in the Classroom Lesson Plan

North Carolina Essential Standard Addressed for First Grade

Students: 1.L.2.2 Summarize the basic needs of a variety of different animals (including air water, and food) for energy and growth.

Teach Point: **All animals, including our classroom pet hamster, have needs that must be met in order to enable them to survive and grow.**

Connection (Anticipatory Set): As responsible pet owners we take care of our pet hamster. Listen as I read this story about a classroom pet hamster. (**Teacher reads** one of the **fiction** stories below—or one of her choice).

Mentor Texts: A fiction book about hamsters such as “The Best Seat in Second Grade” by Katharine Kenah or “The World According to Humphrey” by Betty Birney and a nonfiction book about taking care of hamsters.

Teach Point (Mini Lesson): Today I want to teach you that our hamster needs the items that we have listed and that as responsible pet owners we can help to provide those things to our hamster in order for her to survive and grow.

Active Engagement (Collaborative practice): Now that we have read that story let’s brainstorm a list of things that an animal needs to survive and grow. (Teacher writes these as students give suggestions). How did the characters in the story provide those things? Was there a time that those things weren’t provided? What happened because of that? What can we do in order to help our hamster survive and grow?

Link (Independent Practice): With a partner write a “How To” booklet with pictures that describes how to take care of a hamster. We will give our booklets to other classes so they can decide if they would like to have a hamster as a pet in their classroom.

Share: Two or three partners can share their “How To.” Teacher will show the class the **nonfiction book** about taking care of hamsters comparing what they wrote to what is in the book. This text and the fiction texts will be placed in the classroom library for students to read and reference.

*In our classroom the “pet helper” is a job that one of the students gets to choose twice a week. Students learn how to take care of our pets by doing that job as well as through lessons.