

HyperStudio

My Kitty

Introduction

A favorite theme in early childhood classrooms is children's pets. Children enjoy activities and books which relate to their own pets and those of other children. With *HyperStudio*, educators and families can help children make storybooks which contain pictures of family pets and voices of children describing them. This "My Kitty" activity centers around three different types of storybooks which can be created to meet children's needs and interest levels.

Materials

- Computer
- *HyperStudio*
- Photographs, digital pictures, and video of children's pets

Ahead of Time

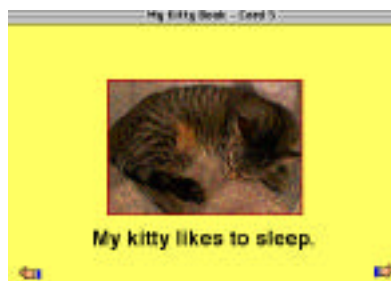
- Invite families to bring pets to school on a designated Pet Day or ask them to send in pictures of pets with their children.
- Encourage children to show their pets and talk about them or to show their pet pictures. For those who do not have pets, pictures of favorite animals from magazines can be used.
- Create picture files of the pets on the computer by taking digital photos and video of the live pets or by scanning the photos which have been sent to school.
- Create a *HyperStudio* stack for each child featuring his or her pet or favorite animal. Record the child's thoughts about what the pet does and include it with the pictures. The child can also draw a picture of the pet to be included in the stack.
- The stack can be created in one of three versions to reflect different types of storybooks:



- The first version is a 5-page picture book which focuses on familiar routines of a child's pet. Digital pictures of a real cat and activities help children understand the content.



- The second version contains the same pictures along with a simple sentence related to the picture on each page. The sentence is spoken by a child.



- The third version represents a pop-up type of book with a surprise animation or video on each page.

Introductory Activity

During circle time, read a book about pets in general or a specific pet such as a kitty. Encourage the children to talk about what pets they have at home. Talk about some of the things their pets do, ask them to find similarities and differences among pets as they listen to others.

Computer Activity

Create a *KidDesk* desktop which contains all of the children's *HyperStudio* stacks about pets. Children can then explore and share *HyperStudio* stacks. They can find their own stack and other stacks containing similar pets. Children can look at their printed books as they explore stacks on the computer.

Extended Activity

- Create a classroom stack which includes all of the children's pets. Each child can have at least one page in the book. Ask children to choose one of the pages they have already created or make a new page with one of their pictures or artwork.
- Print a copy of the book for children to share with their families.
- Display the group book and the children's individual books in the reading center so children can enjoy them during free time.
- Invite families to class for a Pet Day to show off the *HyperStudio* stacks.
- Take a field trip to a veterinarian's office or invite the doctor to the classroom to talk about care of pets.
- Set up a pet shop in the classroom with play animals.
- Create other *HyperStudio* stacks around events or people in children's lives. The children's pet stacks could be a part of a larger family stack. The pet stacks could then be used as part of a family theme.

Summary

A simple *HyperStudio* stack about pets can make a classroom theme come to life and be meaningful for young children. By creating different versions of the stack, children are encouraged to look at different types of books. Although this activity is created and conducted in the classroom, it has a strong connection to the child's family and home life.