

Pets in the Classroom

**Angela Johns
CRESC June 7, 2018**

Today's Agenda

8:30-8:45 Introduction

8:45-9:30 Benefits of Classroom Pets

9:30-9:45 Things to Consider

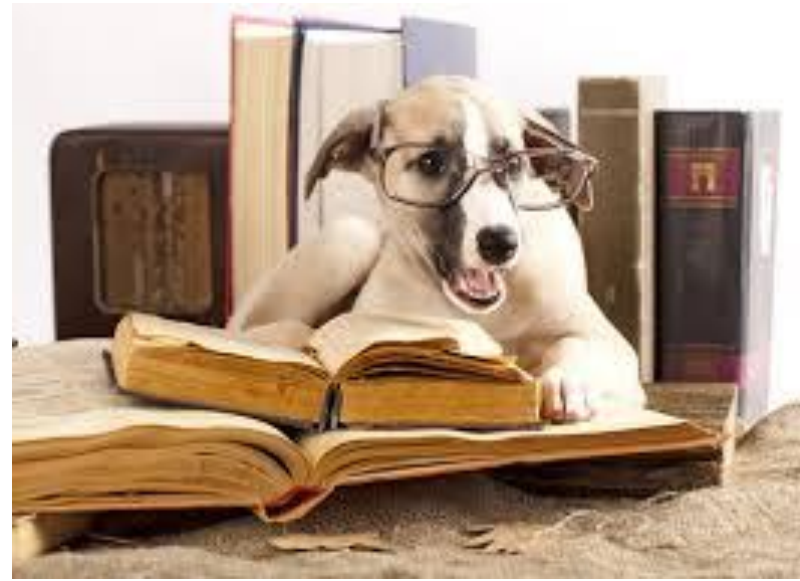
9:45-10:00 Break

10:00-10:15 The Best Pets for the Classroom

10:15-10:45 The Grant Application and Process

10:45-11:45 Meet Jeff, Argon, and Echo

11:45-12:00 Exit Ticket



Introduction



Benefits of Classroom Pets

Benefits of Classroom Pets

- Builds a sense of responsibility in children of all ages.
- Children can develop empathy by caring for a pet, including an increased awareness of the needs and feelings of others.
- A classroom pet creates enthusiasm.
- A classroom pet allows for creative additions to lesson plans in all subject areas. A pet will provide new ways to learn.
- Provides a crucial bond with nature that many students are lacking in our digital world.
- Children learn respect for living creatures and their needs.
- Classroom pets build self-esteem.
- Increased interest in coming to school, to see and interact with the classroom pet. Increased attendance.

Things to Consider

Things to Consider

- Inform school administrator and parents that you are considering a classroom pet. If a child in your classroom has a known pet allergy, consider fish, hermit crabs, amphibians or reptiles.
- What will you do to care for your class pet during weekends/holidays/summers?
- How much space will the pet have in your place?

Pet Type	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Hamster/Gerbil/Mouse/Rat	x		
Fresh Water Fish	x		
Guinea Pig		x	
Parakeet		x	
Bearded Dragon/Gecko		x	
Snake		x	
Conure			x
Chinchilla/Rabbit			x
Hermit Crab	x		

BREAK

The Best Pets

Bearded Dragons

- Despite the rather scary-sounding name, Bearded Dragons are gentle by nature.
- They are named for the spiny skin under their throat that, when puffed up, looks like a beard.
- Bearded dragons are originally from the desert, so they'll require a warm and dry habitat.
- Students can take it out occasionally for handling sessions.



Guinea Pigs

- Among small mammals, guinea pigs make great classroom pets because of their minimal care requirements.
- Since they're larger than hamsters or gerbils, they can be handled more easily.
- While they're easy to care for, guinea pigs do need space to run and often prefer to be in the companionship of another guinea pig of the same gender.



Rabbits

- Like guinea pigs, rabbits are also able to tolerate handling by young children and have minimal care requirements.
- They're intelligent, affectionate, and social, and require daily interaction with people or other rabbits in addition to a large enough habitat to run and exercise comfortably.



Rats

- Rats are a favorite among young children for their loving and affectionate nature.
- They're intelligent, with easier care requirements.



Fish

- They aren't as hand-on as other classroom pets may be, but keeping cold-water fish in the classroom is visually intriguing for young children and can also help teach them responsibility with feeding and water changes.
- There is also some evidence that fish are great for relieving stress and anxiety, a plus for fidgety kids.



Crested Gecko

- The **crested gecko** makes an excellent classroom pet because it is one of the easiest reptiles to care for.
- These reptiles are completely safe for children to handle, with no worries about getting bitten.



The Grant

The Grant

- Go to:
<https://www.petsintheclassroom.org/grant-app/>
 - Do you qualify?
- Choose pet.
- Choose grant.



pets in the
classroom

Meet Jeff, Argon, and Echo

Exit Ticket

- 3 things you learned today
- 2 questions you still have
- 1 way you would use pets in your classroom

Have a Great School Year!