

Preschool Doctors Activity

Materials:

1 real stethoscope	Gauze
1 real scale	Stuffed animals
1 real tape measure	<i>Bear Feels Sick</i>
1 real digital thermometer	Several tables
Cool band-aids and bandages	Timer

Objective:

Children will feel more comfortable going to the doctor by learning about the equipment used.

Before the children arrive:

Set up stations with one piece of doctor's equipment displayed. Have descriptions set up for parents and caregivers to read. Have pictograms to show children how to use the item. (Example: picture of doctor using stethoscope on a person's chest) Set out a box of clean stuffed animals. (Potential patients)

Lead-in:

Read *Bear Feels Sick*. After reading *Bear Feels Sick*, discuss what would have happened if Bear had gone to see the doctor. Talk about their experiences at the doctor's office.

Directions:

1. Tell the children they are going to be doctors for sick animals today. Show them the stations and tell them they are going to help their animals get better.
2. Let the children pick one stuffed animal from the box to take with them to each station. Start the rotation by putting one or two children per station.
3. Give the children 5 minutes at each station.
4. As they go through, show them how to listen to the teddy bear's heart and their own, apply bandages, weigh the animals, etc.
5. After all the children have a chance to visit each station ask the children to bring their animals and sit in a circle.
6. Ask the children how their animals feel now, how they did "at the doctor's office."

Wrap-up:

Have the children give their animals a final hug and then ask them to return them to the box to rest. Send each child off with a decorative band-aid and a high-five.

Extensions:

- See if you can borrow several lab coats or surgical masks from a local university or health clinic, or medical professional. Let the children dress up for the doctor's role as they treat their stuffed animals.
- Have a local pediatrician speak to the children about what it's like to be a doctor.