

Pre-K Essential 3, Bullet 4 Using New Vocabulary Throughout the Day Sample Video

MAISA Literacy Essentials

<https://youtu.be/fd3gosTlbEU>

Narrator: Interactive read alouds with a comprehension and vocabulary focus support children's literacy development. In this classroom, children use new vocabulary they have learned as they care for their classroom pet.

Teacher Adam White: Today we are feeding our pets during work time. It's something that we do every day. It helps our kids focus on empathy, learning how to care for people and the environment and different animals. So, we'll be feeding our classroom pet Cleo some food, preparing him some water, and then talking about how we take care of his body. And then we'll get to spray some spray. It's like giving him a little bath in the classroom. It's time for us to take care of Cleo today. Who's ready to take care of Cleo? Oh, I have some friends who look ready. We've been reading some books about taking care of our pets. We, that's really, really good, isn't it?

Student: I don't want to get him out that he going to bite us.

Teacher Adam White: I'm not going to take him out, but he's not going to bite because he's pretty gentle, isn't he? This is our gentle friend. We've been talking about what he needs to survive. Anybody remember what he needs to survive? He gets nutrients. But from what?

Student: Food?

Teacher Adam White: From food. We got to give him some food today, don't we? Hard food. Why hard food?

Student: So he can grow.

Teacher Adam White: So he can grow. Well, I have a bowl here. Can we put some food in his bowl today? You think we can? All right. I have some hard food for him. And like Tori said, his hard food gives him some nutrients, doesn't it? You want to put a handful in there? Yeah, go ahead.

So as we introduce new vocabulary, we take those words and use them for our classroom pets. So a prime example, if we're talking about nutrition, then we'll relate how pet's food has nutrients in it. And that's why they have to use food because the nutrients helps them grow, helps them survive, helps them live. Why is this food hard and not soft?

Student: Because it's nutrient.

Teacher Adam White: There is nutrients. But why does he have hard food and not soft food? We talked about that. What kind of teeth does he have?

Student: Sharp teeth.

Teacher Adam White: He has really sharp teeth, doesn't he?

Not Norman. It's a book about a kid that in the beginning of fish and he thought the fish was boring, but the fish was actually cool. And then one of my favorites is DeDan Saves the day. They're really good because again, it's an informational text where they're using words about nutrition, about growth, about habitat, about thirst, about survival.

Can somebody tell me why he has fur? What does fur do for him? It keeps him what?

Student: Warm

Teacher: It keeps him warm because where do a lot of ferrets live? Sometimes in the cage or sometimes where else do they live?

Student: In his body. Outside.

Teacher Adam White: They can live outside, can't they? Where their habitat is at. And that's why they have fur, isn't it? Because it helps keep them What? Because it helps keep them what? Jeremiah? It helps keep them warm, doesn't it?

Student: He got claws.

Teacher Adam White: He does have claws.

Student: What does he do with them?

Teacher Adam White: You tell me, what do you think he uses his claws for?

Student: So he can dig a hole

Teacher Adam White: Hole. So he can dig a hole.

We really use books in our classroom to increase vocabulary and then as well as help him understand different kind of science concepts.

So we have food. What else does he need? Water. And why does he need water?

Student: So he can grow.

Teacher Adam White: So he can grow. And so he doesn't get what?

Student: So he don't get thirsty.

Teacher Adam White: So he doesn't get thirsty. We don't want him be thirsty, do we? No. No. We don't want him to be thirsty. So I have some water. I do. It's right here. And we can put this in this cage too, right? Yep. And one last thing, what else does he need? Food. We gave him food. We gave him water. There's one more thing he needs. Why does he need his cage?

Student: So he can sleep. And so he can sleep

Teacher Adam White: So he can sleep. And why is sleep so important for him?

Student: He can grow.

Teacher Adam White: So he can grow. How old is Cleo?

Student: 10. 10.

Teacher Adam White: 10 what? 10. How old is Cleo?

Student: 10. 10.

Teacher Adam White: He's only 10 months, so he has to get lots of sleep so he can grow, doesn't he? And that's really important.

Oftentimes when they're ready to prepare Cleo, if his food or his water, they won't just say, I want to change his water. I want to give him fresh food. They'll say he's thirsty. So we have to change his water. Or he needs nutrients to grow. So we have to give him new foods. We try to use these words as often as possible when describing our pet.

Anybody want to rub him? Remember we're going to rub his back. Sometimes if we're not gentle, he can be afraid. So we want to rub his back. How does this fur feel?

Student: Warm.

Teacher Adam White: It feels warm. What else, go ahead. He's okay. We're going to open this up and we're going to put 'em right back in there. Okay.

Student: You can put a food in.

Teacher Adam White: It did.

So once they learn all of these words that we use in the classroom, we really emphasize using them every day in the classroom so they know when it's time to feed our pet. They know that he needs food because it requires nutrients and that helps him grow. They know that it's important that Cleophus, that's the ferrets name. Cleophus has water so he doesn't get thirsty. That his habitat includes him living in a cage and requires bedding. It requires hard food. We talk about how his fur keeps him warm. So we really use these concepts that we learn and we relate them to our classroom pets. And then we use them as we take care of him. I think he got his food and I think he got his water and his bed is all clean so is Cleo taking care of?

Students: Yeah.

Narrator: Learn more at literacyessentials.org.