



Animal Tape Rescue

Free the trapped animals, match each one with a suitable habitat, and use questions to explore what the animals need.

Helps Your Child Grow



Fine Motor

Holding a drawing tool and peeling tape give your child repeated practice coordinating the eyes and hands for precise movements.



Communicating and Speaking

Asking and answering questions during the rescue helps your child use conversation to find information and learn about the animals.



Small Animal Figures



Painter's Tape



Crayons



Green and Blue
Construction Paper



Scissors

What You'll Need

1. Animal figurines
2. masking tape
3. colored cardstock
4. scissors
5. markers
6. before play, tape the animals to a table to create a pretend rescue scene



Build New Habitats

Tell your child that the animals are trapped and their habitats have been damaged. They need help with both a rescue and a new place to live. Before the rescue, introduce a few habitats such as grassland, forest, and lake. Then let your child decorate pieces of colored paper to make the animals' new homes.

Observations

- Holds a drawing tool and makes marks such as grass or fish
- Uses imagination to draw details for the animals' habitats

Tips

- Cut a few triangles from dark green paper to suggest a forest, then invite your child to add leaves to the trees.
- Explain that the green paper can be grassland and the blue paper can be a lake, then let your child imagine what else each habitat needs.



Free the Animals

When the new habitats are ready, invite your child to peel away the tape, free each animal, and carry it to a suitable home. Talk about how each animal lives along the way. If your child is unsure where an animal belongs, encourage them to ask a question and investigate the answer with you.

Observations

- Pinches and peels the tape to free an animal
- Asks you about an unfamiliar animal

Tips

- Model a complete question when needed: “Where does the panda live?” Then offer useful information: “Pandas live on land, so this panda can go to the grassland.”
- If your child sends an animal to the wrong habitat, offer a clue about what that animal can do: “A fox can’t swim, but it can run very fast.”
- If your child pulls directly on a toy, point out the edge of the tape and demonstrate peeling it back. This makes the rescue a more precise #PMP-FiM action.
- Stay in the game as you ask, “Where is this animal’s home?” Modeling curiosity can make it easier for your child to ask when they are unsure.



Imagine Life in the New Homes

After every animal is free, invent short stories about life in the new habitats. Look across the different homes and wonder which animals are neighbors, which might play together, and who might visit whom.

Observations

- Points out or names new details about each animal after hearing your description
- Shows happiness that the animals have been freed

Tips

- Seeing the rescued animals settled happily into their new homes gives the story a satisfying ending to celebrate.
- Imagining who lives or visits together lets your child explore animal habits through a story rather than only listening to facts.
- As you talk about the animals, compare shared features: “Both eat plants,” or “Both live on land.”