

Kindergarten Activity: Animal Needs

Animals have many needs in order to survive, including air, water, and food.

(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas K-LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms.)

Pre-Activity Questions

- What do animals need to survive?
- What do plants need to survive?
- What do animals and humans need *and* want to grow and survive?

Needs and Wants Activity

- Animals and plants have different needs. Using a piece of paper, let's brainstorm and create a list of the things an animal needs and a list of the things a plant needs. What things are the same and what things are different in the two lists?
 - **ANIMALS** need to take in food for their energy, and different kinds of food are needed by different types of animals.
 - **PLANTS** get their energy from light.
 - **ALL LIVING THINGS** also need water, air, and space.
- Now, let's think about some things animals (including humans) need and want when it comes to survival.
 - Your dog might *want* to chew on his stuffed bunny, but he could live (survive) without it.
 - My dog *needs* water – he can't live (survive) without it.
 - I *want* to ride my bike, but I could live (survive) without it.
 - I *need* to breathe air – I couldn't survive without it.

Needs and Wants Game!

Materials

- Two hula hoops (or two ropes long enough to make two big circles)
- Household Items: Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, notepad, toys, games, wash cloth, water bottle, food item, etc. (or draw pictures of these items)
- Labels: NEEDS, WANTS, BOTH
- Markers or Crayons
- I need/I want activity sheet

Activity

1. Lay the two **hula hoops** (or ropes) on the ground, one overlapping the other (like a Venn diagram). Place the **labels** above each hula hoop.
2. Select a **household item** and discuss what it is used for.
3. Place your items in one of the three categories – NEEDS, WANTS, or BOTH. Explain why you chose that category.



Post-Discussion

- Once all the items are sorted, talk about what you notice about each area – what do you notice about the NEEDS, the WANTS, and the BOTH collections?