Veterinarian Prop Box

Stage: Beginning readers/school-agers

Objectives: Vocabulary growth

Materials: items found in a veterinarian’s office:
- Magazines and books
- Prescription pads
- Pamphlets about pet care
- White coat
- Posters about pets
- Masks
- A “No Smoking” sign
- Gloves
- Leash
- Cotton swabs
- Patient folders
- Toy doctor’s kit
- Appointment cards
- Stuffed animals
- Telephone and/or address books
- Empty, cleaned pet food containers
- Cards with words: cat, dog, doctor, waiting room, etc.

How to make:
1. Begin to collect appropriate props to include. You may be able to get old hats or uniforms from parents.
2. The next step is to include literacy props. Try to include a wide assortment of different types of paper: lined, unlined, stationery, note pads, and envelopes.
3. Try to use real items that children might find.

How to do:
1. Introduce the prop box to children and explain the use of items. Remind the children of the materials in the box and the potential uses at the beginning of the child session. Encourage and guide children in their use. For example, by reminding the children to read to pets in the waiting areas, fill out forms with prescriptions, or appointment times, or fill out forms with information about the parents or the condition and treatment.
2. In addition to giving directions and suggestions for use of materials, model behaviors by participating in play with the children.