

## Core Skills Analysis

### Science

- Sarah learned about animal care and the importance of maintaining a clean environment to promote hamster health.
- She observed the behavior and needs of her hamster, recognizing signs of habitat discomfort or needs.
- The activity facilitated understanding of basic biology concepts such as hygiene and its impact on animal well-being.
- Sarah gathered practical knowledge about how waste affects the living environment and the necessity of regular cleaning.

### Responsibility and Life Skills

- Sarah developed personal responsibility by managing the regular cleaning and maintenance of a pet's habitat.
- She enhanced her organizational skills by gathering needed cleaning materials and systematically cleaning the cage.
- The task encouraged time management as she may have needed to fit this activity alongside other daily routines.
- Sarah practiced empathy through the act of caring for a living creature, understanding the hamster's comfort depends on her actions.

### Mathematics

- During the cleaning process, Sarah could have practiced measuring quantities for bedding or cleaning agents, reinforcing basic measurement concepts.
- She may have used counting skills to track the number of cleaning steps or items in the cage, improving sequential reasoning.
- Estimating time taken for cleaning fosters skills in time management and basic time calculation.
- Sorting and arranging items inside the cage helped develop spatial awareness and categorization.

### Tips

To further enhance Sarah's learning, parents or teachers could encourage her to keep a cleaning schedule or chart to build routine and time management skills. Introducing related science topics, such as the hamster's diet and habitat needs, could deepen her understanding of animal care. Conducting simple experiments, like observing changes when the cage is cleaned versus not cleaned, might strengthen scientific observation skills. Additional activities such as creating a habitat model, visiting a pet store or animal shelter, or caring for another small pet could broaden her practical knowledge and empathy towards animals.

### Book Recommendations

- [Hamster Care for Kids](#) by Claire Harris: A comprehensive guide explaining hamster behavior, care needs, and how to properly keep a hamster cage clean.
- [The Hamster Handbook](#) by Karen McDonald: An easy-to-understand handbook about hamster biology and the responsibilities involved in caring for them.
- [Taking Care of Your Hamster](#) by Christina Morris: This book introduces children to pet care concepts emphasizing hygiene and routine maintenance tasks like cleaning habitats.

## Learning Standards

- Science (TEKS 112.20.b.6): Understanding animal needs and habitats for survival.
- Science (TEKS 112.20.b.3): Observing and describing organisms and environments.
- Life Skills (TEKS 115.5.b.3): Developing responsibility through daily routines and caring for living things.
- Mathematics (TEKS 111.7.b.9A): Using measurements and time calculation in real-life contexts.