

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to identify and describe how parents and offspring work together in nature to help the young animals survive. They will learn to recognize patterns in behavior and understand the importance of these behaviors.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and crayons or markers
- A comfortable reading area
- A few picture books about animals and their young (if available)
- A list of animal behaviors to discuss

Before the lesson, prepare by selecting a few animal stories or books that showcase parent-offspring relationships, like those of birds, mammals, or reptiles.

Activities

- **Story Time:**

Read a short story about an animal and its young. Discuss the actions of the parent and how they help the offspring survive. Ask questions like, "What does the parent do to keep the baby safe?"

- **Draw Your Favorite Animal:**

Have the student draw their favorite animal and its baby. Encourage them to think about what the parent does to take care of the baby and include those actions in their drawing.

- **Animal Behavior Charades:**

Play a game where the student acts out different behaviors of animals (like a bird feeding its chicks or a lion protecting its cubs) while you guess what they are doing. This will help them understand the actions better!

Talking Points

- "Did you know that many animals take care of their babies just like people do? What do you think a mother bird does for her chicks?"
- "Some parents teach their babies how to find food. Can you think of an animal that does this?"
- "Why do you think it's important for parents to protect their young? What could happen if they didn't?"
- "Animals can be very creative in keeping their babies safe. What are some ways you think they do this?"
- "What did you learn from the story we read about animal families? Can you tell me one thing that surprised you?"
- "How do you think you would feel if you were a baby animal? What would you want your parent to do for you?"