



▶ [Link to Video](#)

TEACHER GUIDE

ANIMALS HELP THEIR BABIES SURVIVE GRADES K-2

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- **All baby animals need their parents when they are first born.**
Some animals, such as sea turtles, lizards and many insects, are on their own from the minute they are born. Many animals never even meet their parents.
- **Baby animals stay with their parents for a long time.**
Unlike human babies, many animals stay with their parents for a short time. Some animals stay with their parents for just a few weeks or months, while others may spend the first year with their parents.
- **All animals feed their babies milk.**
Only mammals feed their babies milk and not all animals are mammals. For example, reptiles and amphibians do not provide milk for their babies.

ANIMALS AND THEIR OFFSPRING

Young students tend to believe that all animals treat their young in the same way that humans treat their babies. They are often surprised to find out that some animals don't get any parental support after birth. Although there are many similarities in how some animals care for their young, there are also many differences. The length of time spent together, what the babies get from their parents, what sounds they make, etc. There is a huge diversity in how animal parents care for their offspring, but all animals that help care for their babies have one thing in common: they help the babies survive.

TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Young students love to hear about different animals and how they care for their young. Many students have had experiences caring for puppies and kittens and understand that baby animals need extra care and attention. Widening their horizons by introducing them to a variety of unfamiliar animals can be helpful. Helping students see the overall pattern that many animals help their babies survive is the most important concept in this lesson; knowing the specifics of care for certain baby animals is not necessary.