OBJECTIVES
- Students will learn how the amount of care given by adults to their young varies greatly among the species.
- Students will compare the way that animals care for their young to the way that humans care for their children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- The vast majority of animal species do not care for their young.
- The amount of care provided is closely related to the number of young produced in a single birth.
- The more offspring that are produced, the less a parent will care for them.
- Many birds and mammals are helpless at birth.
- The parental role involves food gathering, protection, and teaching.

PROCEDURE
- When at the zoo, have the students look for examples of animal parents caring for their young in ways similar to how human parents care for their children.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT
- Check the student’s work for accuracy.

EXTENSIONS
- Have the students observe baby animals at the zoo and pay attention to how much care they receive from their parents.

TEACHER HINTS
- Check the zoo’s website or a newsletter to make sure there are a few different animal babies available to observe.
ANIMAL PARENTING SKILLS
Find examples of animal parents acting in the ways shown below.

Name ____________________________

FEEDING

CLEANING

CARRYING

LEADING