



**TOOLS
OF THE
MIND**

Let's Pretend . . .

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Are you ready to pretend?
Let's go!



Close your eyes.

Now open them...





We're at the
veterinarian's office!



My dog, Trevor, just doesn't seem like himself. Grandpa says, "What's the matter, boy? Are you okay? Are you sick?"

Grandpa takes him for a walk. Trevor just drags himself along. Something isn't right. Trevor isn't feeling well.

Pretend you're the grandpa. Hold the leash gently, and talk to your dog. You might say things like, "Come on boy. What's the matter?"





Sometimes, when people get sick, they need to go to the doctor's office. Sick animals go to see a vet, or veterinarian.



Have you ever taken a pet to the vet?



Veterinarians are animal doctors. They take care of all different kinds of animals. My grandpa calls the veterinarian's office to make an appointment for Trevor. The receptionist says, "Bring him right in, and we'll see if we can get him feeling better."




At the veterinarian's, they have friendly cats that walk around the office. Fluffy thinks she is the receptionist! On the counter they have treats for dogs and cats. They really want pet owners and pets to feel comfortable, and welcome. A vet tech comes over and asks for our pet's name, and tells us to have a seat; the vet will see Trevor soon.



Pretend to be waiting with a nervous pet. What will you say and do to help your pet stay calm?

Lots of other people and animals are waiting for their turn to see the veterinarian. Some hold their animals in their laps, and others have their animals in crates. The owners talk to them, to keep them calm.



Pretend you are a vet tech listening to an animal's heart. Where do you put the stethoscope? What do you hear? What do you say to the pet?

The vet tech tells us to bring Trevor to the exam room. He checks him over, and says, "We'll get you better, sweetie. We'll get you better." I think Trevor is a little bit scared. The vet tech pats his head. Then he listens to Trevor's heart with a stethoscope.



Pretend you are the vet tech.
What questions might you ask?
Pretend to write down the pet
owner's answers.

The vet asks many questions. "Has he been eating? Has he been drinking? Has he been scratching his ears?" The vet tech writes down our answers on his clipboard.



Pretend you are a vet tech checking on the animals that are staying with you. What will you check and write down?

Sometimes, animals stay in the veterinarian's office overnight to get better. The vet tech keeps checking on each one of them. He writes down notes on their medical records, recording their temperatures, and whether they are eating, and drinking.



Pretend you are the grandpa, and make a worried face.



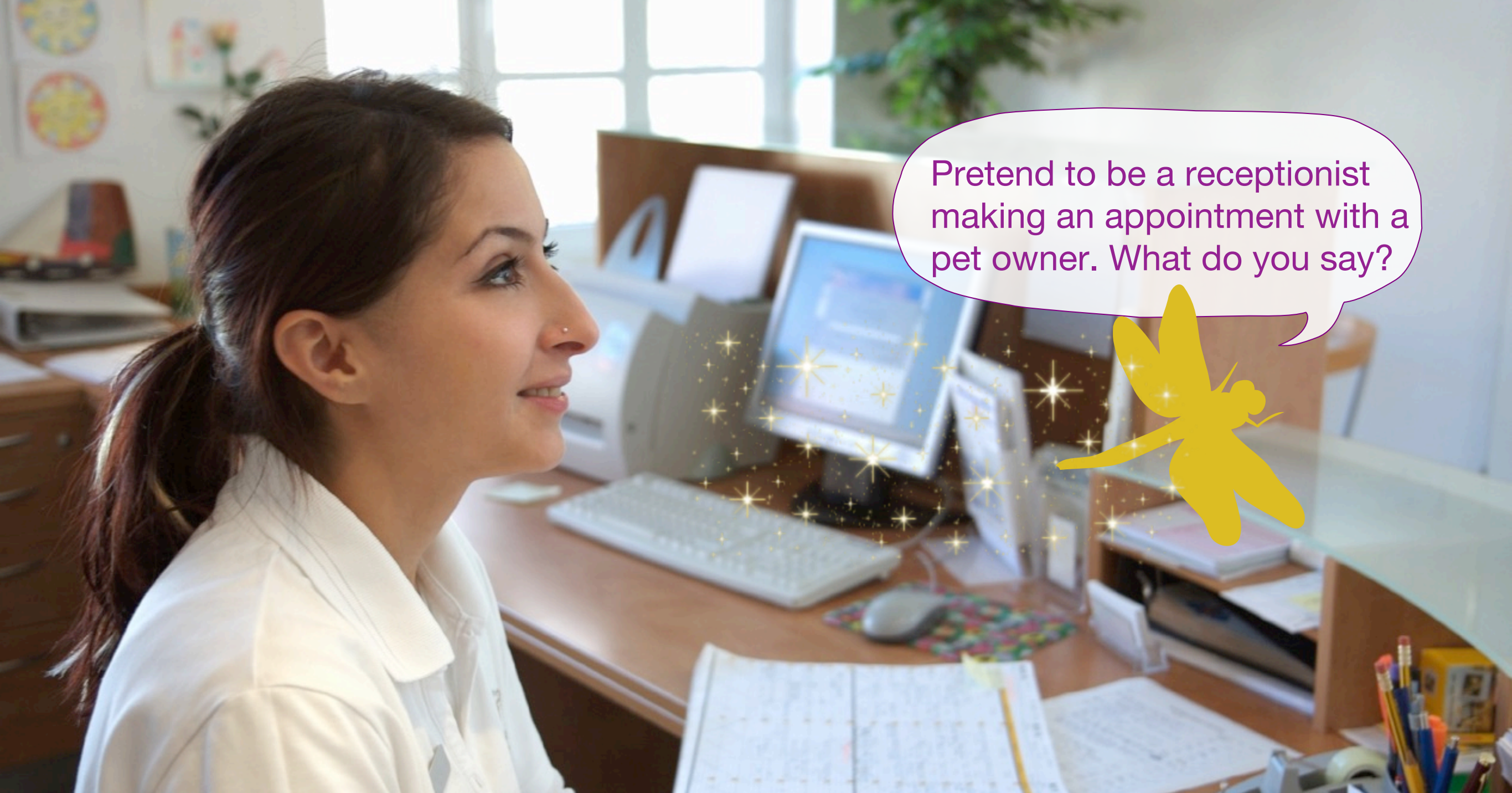
Grandpa is worried. He says, "Will my dog be okay? We love him so much."



The vet says Trevor is going to be just fine, but he has an ear infection.

Our vet tech says, “Don’t worry. We’ll fix him right up.” The vet tech puts medicine in Trevor’s ears. “Hold still, boy. That’s a good dog.”



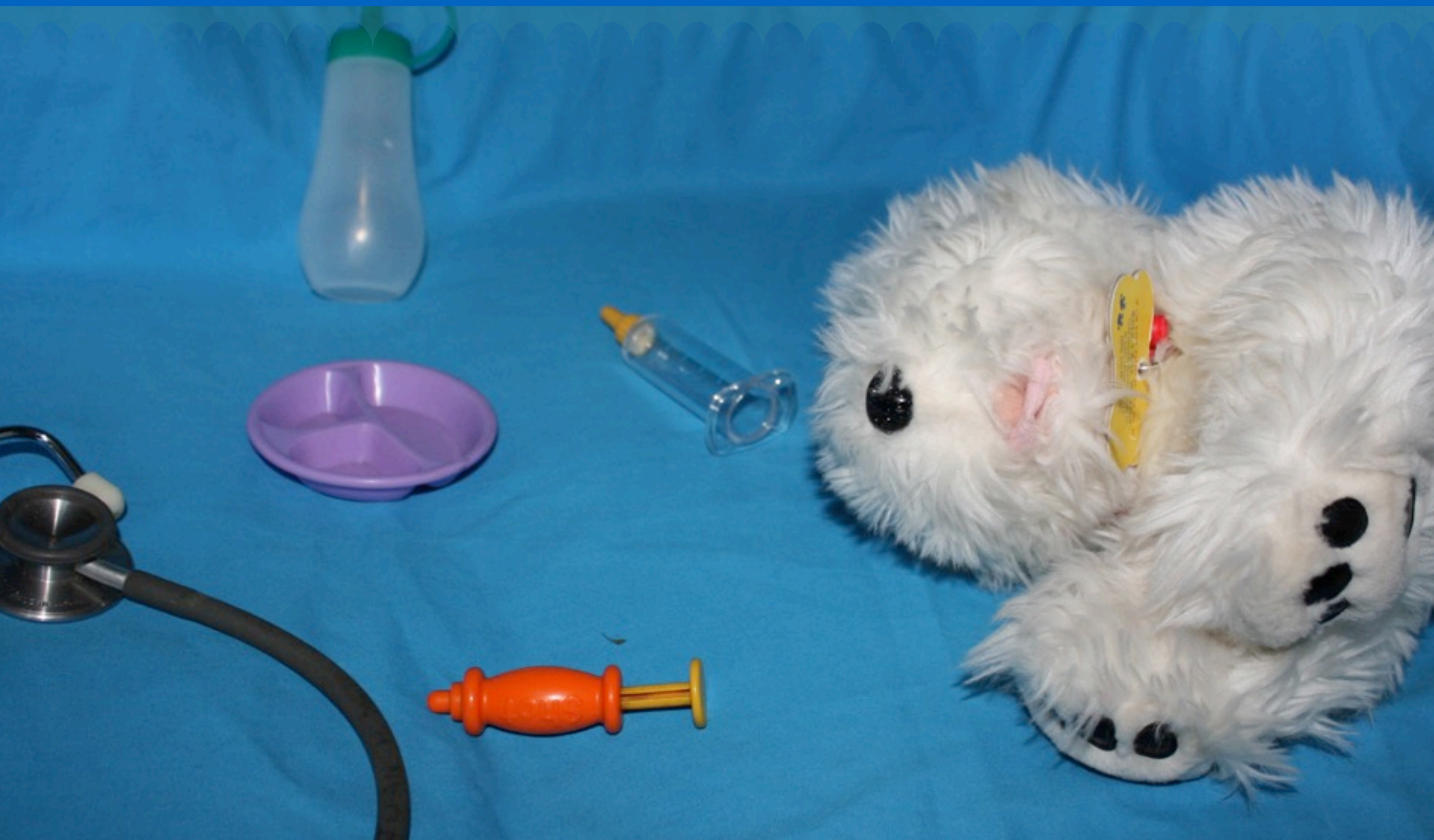


Pretend to be a receptionist making an appointment with a pet owner. What do you say?

On the way out, we stop and wait our turn to pay the receptionist. The vet tells her we need to bring Trevor back, in one week. The receptionist looks at her calendar. “Does Wednesday, February 12, work for you at 3 PM?” My grandpa says we can make that work. “Feel better, Trevor!” she says. She is nice.




When I get home, I'm going to pretend to be a veterinarian with my stuffed animals. I'll pretend to put medicine in the dog's ear. I'll say, "Hold still, girl. That's a good dog."



Uh-oh! My dog rolls around and tries to get the medicine out!
I don't think she liked getting medicine! I better comfort her.



Would you like to pretend to be a vet or a vet tech? You could pretend to be a pet owner, or receptionist, too! You can even take turns.

A whimsical scene set within a room with light blue walls. On the left, a white door is open, revealing a bright green field under a blue sky with white clouds. A yellow fairy with large, translucent wings is flying in the air. In the bottom right corner, a ginger kitten sits next to a purple pet carrier. A trail of golden sparkles leads from the carrier towards the right. A speech bubble from the fairy contains the text:

Now it's your turn to pretend and play veterinarian's office!



Tools of the Mind is a research-based early childhood model combining teacher professional development with a comprehensive innovative curriculum that helps young children to develop the cognitive, social-emotional, self-regulatory, and foundational academic skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

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