

Chick Brooder



Mid-Valley
STEM-CTE HUB



www.midvalleystem.org
midvalleystemctehub@linnbenton.edu
Linn-Benton Community College
Albany Campus - CC-212



Chick Brooder

The Chick Brooder Kit provides students with a hands-on opportunity to explore animal life cycles, agriculture, and biological development through the care and observation of newly hatched chicks. Designed to be used alongside our Egg Incubator Kit or another incubator, this kit provides a safe and supportive environment for chicks during their first few weeks of life. Students can observe growth, behavior, and basic animal needs while developing social-emotional, scientific observation, and data collection skills. The included brooder is best suited for a small group of chicks during the first 2–3 weeks after hatching. For larger hatchings or chicks older than 3–4 weeks, a larger brooder space is recommended to support healthy growth and development.



Grade Level

3rd - 12th

Group Size

Class project

Time Duration

4 - 6 Weeks

Content of Kits

Components

- 1 Radiant heater
- 1 Water dish
- 1 Food dish
- Storage bin that doubles as a brooder

(We recommend acquiring a larger brooder, if possible, to provide adequate space for multiple chicks.)

NOTE: Educator is responsible for supplying food and bedding (puppy pads or pine shavings) for chicks.



Usage

Getting Started

1. Assemble the Brooder Before Chicks Hatch

Set up the brooder several days before your expected hatch date. Install the heat source, food and water containers, and bedding materials, then verify that everything is functioning properly before chicks arrive.

2. Create a Safe and Comfortable Environment

Place the brooder in a draft-free indoor location away from direct sunlight, pets, and high-traffic areas. Ensure chicks have adequate space to move, rest, eat, and drink while remaining protected from hazards.

3. Monitor Temperature and Supplies

Check that the brooder maintains the appropriate temperature for newly hatched chicks and confirm that fresh food and water are always available. Chicks rely on a consistent environment during their first weeks of life.

4. Establish Observation and Care Routines

Develop a schedule for feeding, watering, cleaning, and observing the chicks. Encourage students to record observations about growth, behavior, and development in science journals throughout the project.

Storage

- **Clean and Sanitize All Components**

After use, remove bedding and thoroughly clean and disinfect the brooder and accessories according to manufacturer recommendations. Allow all components to dry completely before storage.

- **Store Components Together**

Keep the brooder, feeders, waterers, heat source, and other accessories together in a clean, dry location. Organizing materials in one place will make future setup and inventory easier.

Troubleshooting

- **Chicks Are Huddling Closely Together**

If chicks gather tightly beneath the heat source and appear inactive, the brooder may be too cold. Check the temperature and adjust the heat source as needed to provide a comfortable environment.

- **Chicks Are Avoiding the Heat Source**

If chicks stay far from the heat source or appear to be panting, the brooder may be too warm. Reduce the temperature slightly and ensure chicks have enough space to move to cooler areas when needed.



Learning Extensions

STEAM Connections: Engineering - Math - Science

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the basic needs of living organisms, including food, water, shelter, and appropriate environmental conditions.
- Investigate how habitat conditions affect the growth and development of chicks.
- Collect and record observations about chick behavior, growth, and physical characteristics.
- Compare and contrast life cycles among different animals.
- Use scientific observation skills to identify patterns and changes over time.
- Develop an understanding of animal care, welfare, and responsible stewardship of living organisms.
- Explore the role of agriculture and animal science in food systems and communities.

Career Connections:

- **Veterinarian** – Diagnoses and treats animals while promoting animal health and welfare.
- **Veterinary Technician** – Assists veterinarians with animal care and medical procedures.
- **Poultry Farmer** – Raises chickens for eggs, meat production, or breeding.
- **Agricultural Scientist** – Researches ways to improve agricultural practices.
- **Livestock Manager** – Oversees the care and management of farm animals.
- **Wildlife Biologist** – Studies animal life cycles, habitats, and populations.
- **Zoologist** – Investigates animal behavior, development, and ecosystems.
- **Extension Agent** – Supports farmers and communities through education and outreach.
- **Animal Nutritionist** – Develops feeding programs that support animal health and growth.

Essential Employability Skills:

- **Communication**
- **Critical Thinking**
- **Responsibility**
- **Collaboration**
- **Observation and Attention to Detail**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Initiative and Self-Direction**
- **Ethical Decision-Making**





Resources and Accessibility

Safety Guidelines

- **Practice Proper Hand Hygiene**

Students and educators should wash their hands thoroughly before and after handling chicks, feed, water containers, or brooder materials. This helps protect both students and animals from the spread of germs.

- **Handle Chicks Gently and Respectfully**

Always supervise interactions with the chicks and encourage students to handle them calmly and carefully. Avoid loud noises, sudden movements, or rough handling that may stress or injure the animals.

Accessibility

- **Provide Multiple Ways to Participate**

Students can engage in the project through observation, data collection, journaling, photography, drawing, measuring growth, or assisting with care routines. This allows all learners to contribute based on their strengths and abilities.

- **Use Visual and Hands-On Supports**

Support learning with diagrams, life cycle charts, labeled images, videos, and direct observation of the chicks. Providing information in multiple formats helps make scientific concepts accessible to a wide range of learners.

Library Catalog



Library Resources



Feedback

QR to feedback survey

