

Bear Safety Curriculum up to Grade 4

Overview:

West Coast Wildlife is happy to present a program for younger children about wildlife and staying safe in wildlife country.

Curriculum: **Living in Bear Country as a Kid.**
Age: Up to and incl. grade 4
Duration: 20 minutes plus QnA (timed out at the teacher's discretion)
Props: Large Stuffy Bear called Burp, a bowl of pretend rubber foods and toxins.

Generally grades can split into mixed grade groups as long as there is not a huge gap.

Topic: from the course: **Understanding Bears and Living With Wildlife.**
Time: 20 - 40 minutes flexible for young minds that may have limits
QnA: Great time to answer funny questions and learn about local families.
Hand outs: Black bear colouring and info sheet
Over Time: As long as the kids are engaged.
Technical: No technical set up required.
Cost: \$250
Grants: Yes
Grant Coverage: Up to 100%, including transportation and taxes.

Bear Species and habitat Education: what does a bear look like?

Using our Stuffy Bear prop Burp we examine the broad parts of the bear to note things to look for like fur colour, big head, no tail and the difference between a boy and a girl and a mom with cubs. We dont assume that kids have seen a Bear so this is a valuable step.

Conflict Avoidance: What to do as a kid if you see a bear

In this quick section we are trying to identify with the children and let them know that we are talking from their point of view, lower, vulnerable, scared. We show them the circle of safety, how to look big, how to walk away safely and why not to run.

How to help save bears: Some of the things we can do to keep them safe

Creating a system at home as a kids isn't easy. We talk about ways that kids really can inspire their parents to consider more bear friendly ways of living at home

How we can do better at home. Recycling tips, containers tips "bear Safe Containers"

From containers that keep bears out and smells in, to not touching electric fences and blending food scraps.

Wildlife Ethics: How to be Bear Friendly in nature

Giving a fundamental belief structure to the children that includes the wildlife as part of our ecosystem with a natural right to exist in its natural environment and it is we as residents to respect and behave appropriately. We are talking to future rulers and policy makers in the young audience, they must be taken very seriously and given purpose to

believe in wildlife rights and reasons to create wildlife friendly policies when it is their turn. Zero trace camping ethics is a great topic.

Wildlife empathy:

Seeing people from a bears point of view.

Pointing out how we have taken great care to see the world from a kids point of view and encouraging the kids to see life from a bears point of view.

AR option:

Wildlife AR app

Time allowing, we can provide an ipad to showcase a Bear or other wildlife walking about the class room in AR.

This amazing program has been used for years and is designed to create a feeling of awareness regarding bears and other wildlife in a short period of time and not create a fear cycle. By offering knowledge of Bear behaviour we hope to draw on feelings that young folks can relate to like pets and other animals they understand. Empathy. ethics and understanding of wildlife is the first step and one that we pride ourselves in offering our community