

# Black Bear Safety Curriculum

## Grade 5-7

### Overview:

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

Curriculum:	<b>Living in Bear Country as a Kid.</b>
Age:	Up to and incl. grade 4
Duration:	25 minutes plus QnA (timed out at the teacher's discretion)
Props:	Bear Friendly Bin and Large Stuffy Bear called Burp, a bowl of pretend rubber attractant

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

Topic:	from the course: <b>Understanding Bears and Living With Wildlife.</b>
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 skill testing questions for a prize.
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 presenter transportation and taxes.

### (0.00 minutes) **Presentation Start:**

*We like to settle the kids down with some initial questions and answers to help identify those particular kids that will be participating in the conversation and what level the class is at. Questions like Who has seen a real live Bear? Who lives with Bears in their neighbourhood. There is always a story teller, a chronic question asker, a distracter and a know it all so it's best to figure out who is who at the beginning!*

### (3.00 minutes) **Bear Biology Education:                      What does a black bear look like?**

*Once we have the class together we can go ahead and start with the basics. 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.*

### (7.00 minutes) **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. Riparian areas to be avoided and playing alone.*

### (14.00 minutes) **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*

**(19.00 minutes) 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.*

**(22.00 minutes) 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.*

**(25.00 minutes) 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**