

Black Bear Programs for Preschool

Black Bears:

Animals Like Us:

- Mammals
- Furry
- Milk
- Live birth
- Big teeth for eating
- Color? Not always black

Feel pelts
Skull

How big?

- Have kids measure against bear puzzle panels (puzzles at VN Center)
- Check hands against bear track

Bear puzzle
Tracks

Where do they live?

- Foothills and forests
- Finding food
- Act out Mom teaching cubs how to find food
- Act out Mom teaching cubs how to escape danger (climbing trees)
- How do they talk to each other?

Tri-fold panel
iPad sounds

What do they eat?

- Nearly everything!
- Lots to get ready for winter hibernation
- You may not see bears, you may see poop.
- Show them examples of things bears might eat—fruit, berries, mice, etc.

What are they doing now in winter?

- Cozy caves
- Babies born (small; eyes shut)
- Moms and Dads don't eat in winter – for months!
- Show bear puppet sleeping under a blanket

Baby puppet

Conclusion: What did you like best? Another chance to feel pelts, tracks?

Preschool Black Bear Programs, Dec. 16, 2015 (Boulder County Head Start)

Four 25-minute classes, three stations (~7 minutes a station allows for transition time)

Each class will have three stations/topic areas

A. BODIES

Furry mammals (what makes a mammal: fur, feed on milk)

Pelts to feel

Ears and tails on mount (NO TOUCH)

Size on puzzle

Huge feet

B. DAILY LIFE

Food, eating, and teeth - skull

Don't feed them OUR food - no garbage

Pooping - scat

Where do they live?

How do they talk to each other?

C. WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Fall they eat and get fat

Winter, they sleep in cozy dens.

Babies are born there

Tiny, eyes closed, helpless

Come out in spring

VN Ann Cooper