

Theme: Bears

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

Let's Go on a Bear Hunt
Climb on outdoor equipment
Dance and move around to bear songs, imitating bear movements
Bear-Bear-Hunt (like Duck-Duck-Goose)
Nature walk to look for things bears like to eat



Math Activities:

- Flannel board: Count the bears, sort bears by size and color
- Make flash cards with a number of bears and match those with cards that have the numerals printed on them
- Make some bear dominoes and play a game
- Concentration – match the bears
- Line up flannel bears by size, from smallest to largest and vice versa

Science Activities:

- Mix paints to get different shades of brown
- Use a magnifying glass to examine the things you found on your nature walk
- Paw prints – study pictures of bear tracks

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

Plastic sorting bears in different colors – separate by colors into muffin pans.

Snacks:

- Cinnamon toast cut in the shape of bears (with cookie cutter); sandwiches work well, too!
- Sugar cookies shaped like bears; cover with chocolate frosting and sprinkles
- Teddy Grahams; Bear Claws (with or without the frosting)
- Chicken pot pie – cut the biscuits in the shape of a bear to go on top
- Make a pizza shaped like a bear's head

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- A trip to the zoo or your local museum to look at bears would be great!
- Make big blocks out of boxes; glue pictures of bears on each side. Cover with clear contact paper. You can roll the blocks and talk about the bear picture that shows on top. You can also put the name of a bear song or fingerplay next to each picture, so if you roll the boxes as “dice” you can sing the song or do the fingerplay that comes up on top.

Fingerplays & Songs: See fingerplay and action rhymes cards.

Art:

- Butcher paper – make their version of a big bear and the bear's habitat
- Paint the children's hands and let them leave “bear tracks” on paper
- Collage – leaves glued to a plate; hide a paper bear in the midst.
- Play dough – use bear-shaped cookie cutters
- Cut out a bear shape out of a sheet of brown paper. Let children draw and color or paint around the bear shape.

Books:

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by James Marshall (Retold by)
The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends, by Stan & Jan Berenstain
A Bear Named Trouble by Marion Dane Bauer
Little Polar Bear by Hans de Beer
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle
Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle
Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle
My Panda Book by Stuart P. Levine
Polar Bears (True Books) by Ann O. Squire
Why Do Bears Sleep All Winter? A Book About Hibernation by Mary Englar
Snow Bear by Fernleigh Books and Piers Harper
Arthur's Honey Bear by Lillian Hoban
The Bear by Sabrina Crewe
Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond
Bear Wants More by Karma Wilson
A Kiss for Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik
Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett
Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett
Little Brown Bear Won't Take a Nap by Jane Dyer
Bears by Ruth Krauss
Knut: How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World by Juliana Hatkoff
The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear by Audrey Wood

Circle Time Activities:

- Discuss different types of bears and what they like to eat, what their temperaments are like, etc.
- How would you secure your food at a campsite to keep the bears out of it?
- Sing songs and do fingerplays about bears
- Read bear books
- Act out the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears"
- Build a small bear cave (like building a tent or fort indoors)
- Flannel board stories about bears (any book can be turned into a flannel board story)
- "Let's Go on a Bear Hunt"
- Make up a story about bears; each child adds one sentence to the story; go around the circle and let each child have a turn adding to the bear story.
- Using the Goldilocks story, teach children about the position words: on, in, under, behind and beside.
- Dress the bear: Put clothing on the bear to represent different seasons.

Dramatic Play:

Bear costumes

Stick puppets

Wear bear-ears hats and do a skit about bears (make it up as they go)