

Love Wildlife

Grade 1-3 'Home Learning' Lesson Plans

The following offers **five** interactive lessons that nurture wildlife empathy and compassion at home.

Use the accompanying **Love Wildlife Grade 1-3 Home Learning' Workbook** to complete each lesson.

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Take photos of our lessons in action and tag us on social media!

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Love Wildlife

Lesson #1: Circle of Compassion

In this lesson, children will practice compassion for themselves *and* for wild animals.

SHARE: What would you say to an animal who was having a hard day and needed help? Do you say the same things to yourself when *you* have a hard day?

CONNECT: Compassion is when you help a person (including yourself), another animal or any other part of nature when they need it. Compassion is a kind and loving action that shows how big your heart is.

On **Page 2** of your **Workbook**, draw a big circle. This is your *circle of compassion*. Who is in your circle of compassion? Draw all the people, animals, and other parts of nature (likes trees or water) who you love and want to help out the most. Count how many people/animals/nature are inside your circle of compassion.

Did you include yourself in your circle of compassion? Take a moment to practice *self*-compassion by doing any two of the following:

- Add yourself to your circle of compassion
- Listen to your favourite song
- Say one thing you like about yourself
- Stand up and stretch your arms and legs
- Have a healthy snack
- Drink a glass of water
- Take two deep breaths
- Give yourself a hug!

Pause and Ponder

Why did you include some people, other animals or parts of nature in your circle of compassion, but not others?

Do you think wild animals practice *self*-compassion too? What do you think they do to be kind to themselves?

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Lesson #1: Circle of Compassion

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and look for wild animals in your neighbourhood. Check under rocks, in trees, on flowers, in the sky, and anywhere else you think a wild animal might live. Look at **Page 3** of your **Workbook** for a list of common animals and animal signs in southeastern Ontario.

When you find a wild animal, go to **Page 4-5** of your **Workbook** and answer the questions on what amazes you about each animal. Do you have the same amazing qualities? After completing the worksheet, say all of the reasons why *you* are amazing out loud, in any language you wish.

LOVE:

Write the names of each animal you met outside on scrap paper and put the paper in a pile. Then, write the names of each person who lives in your home on scrap paper and add these to your pile.

Randomly select a piece of paper from the pile and send this person or wild animal a kind wish. For example, if you picked a wild animal, you can say out loud, "*Dear [wild animal], may you be happy and cozy in your home*". If you picked a person, go to this person and tell them your wish. For example, "*Dear [dad/sister/grandpa], may you have a beautiful day!*". Try making your own kind wishes for each person or wild animal you pick!

Choose a new name each day of the week and continue to send kind wishes until there are no names left in your pile.

REFLECT:

What is the most amazing thing about an animal you met during this lesson? What is the most amazing thing you noticed about yourself?

How did it feel to be kind to yourself and to notice amazing qualities in yourself? How did it feel to send kind wishes to people and wild animals?

Are there any people, wild animals, or other parts of nature that you would like to add to your *circle of compassion* (**Workbook Page 2**)?

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Lesson #2: Backyard Wildlife

In this lesson, children will learn about common wild animals who live in their neighbourhood.

SHARE: Think of your favourite wild animal. Where have you seen them before? Were they at a zoo, on TV, or in your neighbourhood?

CONNECT: Your neighbourhood is full of wild animals that live around, above, below, and inside your home! Go to **Page 6** of your **Workbook** and guess where each wild animal is most likely to be found in your neighbourhood.

Then, search *inside* your home for wild animals. See **Page 7** of your **Workbook** for a list of animals you may find in your home.

When you find a wild animal, make a small sign with the following details:

- A drawing of the animal (look closely at their shape, colour, and size)
- A name you have picked for the animal
- A creative address for the animal (*Example:* "20 Basement Lane")
- A message to help keep the animal safe (*Example:* "Please be gentle near my home" or "Please keep the vacuum away")

Put your sign next to the animal. Then, give your family a 'neighbourhood tour' to meet all of the wild animals who share your home. For each animal you introduce, ask your family:

- What makes this animal a good neighbour?
- How will your family be a good neighbour to this animal?

Pause and Ponder

If you were a wild animal living inside your home, what would you think of the people who live with you? Do they notice you? Are they kind to you?

Why do you think some people are scared of sharing their home with wild animals like spiders?

Love Wildlife

Lesson #2: Backyard Wildlife

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and stand in front of your home. What do you see around your home? What do you think this space looked like before your home was built? Go to **Page 8** of your **Workbook** to answer these questions.

Many wild animals have lived in your neighbourhood long before your family moved in. Your home is actually built in *their* backyards! Whose backyard you are living in now?

Look for wild animals near your home. For each animal you find, ask them how you can be a good neighbour to them. Go to **Page 9-10** of your **Workbook** to answer.

LOVE: Make an animal home as a 'thank you' gift to the wild animals who are letting you live in their backyard. See below for example homes.

Home

A large pile of leaves and branches

A large pile of rocks

A small pile of sticks

Any other home you like!

Enjoyed By

Frogs, Rabbits, and Foxes

Snakes

Insects

Your choice!

If anyone helped you complete this lesson, offer them a 'thank you' gift too. Write a note that says, "I am thankful for you because..." and fill in the sentence, or draw you and this person doing this lesson together.

REFLECT: Did you learn anything new about your wildlife neighbours? What questions do you still have about a wild animal you met?

How does it feel to live in the backyard of a wild animal?

How did it feel to offer a helpful gift to wildlife?

Are there any people, wild animals, or other parts of nature that you would like to add to your *circle of compassion* (**Workbook Page 2**)?

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Lesson #3: We Are One

This lesson explores the connection between people, the Earth, and wild animals.

SHARE: Share one thing you do to keep your body happy and healthy. Does anyone in your home do the same thing? What do they do differently?

CONNECT: All animals - including you - need help from the Earth and help from each other to stay healthy and alive. What do animals need to stay alive? When you have an answer, go to **Page 11** of your **Workbook** and guess which parts of the planet work together to keep you alive and healthy.

Ask each person in your home how *they* help you stay healthy. Do they help you get food, water, or fresh air? Thank this person for helping you by giving them something *they* need to be healthy. With each action, tell this person which wild animal is helping give this gift. For example:

- Bring the person a cup of clean water. This is a gift from the turtles!
- Bring the person a fruit or vegetable snack. This is a gift from the bees!
- Take a deep breath with this person. This is a gift from the squirrels!

Take a moment to check in with yourself. Do you need water, a healthy snack or a deep breath before continuing this lesson?

Pause and Ponder

If there is no water, which animals would go thirsty?

If there is no food, which animals would go hungry?

If there was no air, which animals could not breathe?

If you could give a gift to every wild animal in the world, what gift would you give?

Love Wildlife

Lesson #3: We Are One

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and explore air, food, and water in your neighbourhood, using **Page 12-14 (top section)** of your **Workbook**.

Look for wild animals while you are outside! When you see a wild animal, pause and watch what they are doing. Are they breathing the same air as you? Are they eating the same kind of food as you? Are they drinking water that came from the same place as your tap water? Answer these questions in **Page 12-14 (bottom section)** of your **Workbook**.

LOVE:

The Earth gives us everything we need to live like food, water, air, and so much more. When we take good care of the Earth, we also take good care of the wild animals and people who need food, water, and air to live.

Go outside and choose an action from the list below to show your love for the Earth, for people and for all wild animals:

- Pick up one piece of litter and thank the **Earth** for giving air, food and water to all animals.
- Smell a flower or any other plant. Thank the **bees** for helping make seeds, so fruits and vegetables can grow.
- Wraps your arms around a tree trunk. Thank the **squirrels** for planting trees that make air for all to breathe.
- Dip your feet in a puddle. Thank the **turtles** for cleaning water, so other animals have clear water to drink.
- Put your hand on your heart. Thank all the **people** who help you get healthy food, clean water, and fresh air.

REFLECT: How would you change your neighbourhood so that wild animals can get cleaner water, more food, and fresher air?

How would you change your neighbourhood so that *people* can get cleaner water, more food, and fresher air?

Are there any people, wild animals, or other parts of nature that you would like to add to your *circle of compassion* (**Workbook Page 2**)?

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Lesson #4: What is Fair?

This lesson explores the fair treatment of *all* wild animals.

SHARE: Think of a time when you have been treated unfairly. What happened? How did you feel? How did you *want* to be treated?

CONNECT: Click [here](#) and listen to the story called *I Am Human* by Susan Verde. Go to **Page 15** in your **Workbook** to answer questions about fairness toward wildlife, inspired by the story.

Fairness is when every person or wild animal can get what they need to be happy and healthy. If you could make the rules on how people should treat each other so every person be happy and healthy, what is the first rule you would make? What rule would be fair to all people?

If you could make the rules on how people should treat *wild animals* so every animal can be happy and healthy, what is the first rule you would make? What rule would be fair to *all* wild animals?

When you have your rule for wild animals, ask each person in your home to make a rule as well. How do *they* think wild animals should be treated? Make a poster with all of the rules your household has made and put this somewhere in your home where everyone can see it.

Pause and Ponder

Is it fair to be kind to some people but not *all* people? Is it fair to be kind to some wild animals, but not *all* wild animals?

Has anyone in your home treated an animal unfairly? What better choice could this person could have made?

Do you think people should be allowed to hurt wild animals? Do you think wild animals should be kept in zoos?

Love Wildlife

Lesson #4: What is Fair?

EXPLORE: Go to **Page 16-17** in your **Workbook** and decide whether each animal is being treated fairly based on the rules you and your family have made.

Then, look for wild animals inside your home (like spiders or flies) and answer the same questions on **Page 18** of your **Workbook**.

Outdoor Exploration

Using **Page 19** of your **Workbook**, go outside and look for ways that people are being fair to wild animals in your neighbourhood. While you were exploring, did you notice any wild animals being treated unfairly? Did you notice any *people* being treated unfairly?

For each wild animal you see, imagine you are that animal and finish one of the following sentences out loud: "*My life is important because...*" or "*I deserve to be treated fairly because...*" Try finishing a sentence for at least one stranger you see as well.

LOVE: Write a letter of apology to a wild animal who is being treated unfairly in your neighbourhood *or* a wild animal who you have treated unfairly in the past. In your letter, say:

1. Something you like about this animal
2. What poor choice has hurt them and an apology from your heart
3. What better choice can make things right

Read the letter out loud and imagine this animal hearing your words. You may like to send them a kind wish by placing a hand over your heart and saying, "*May you be treated fairly and be loved by all people*".

REFLECT: What would you change in your neighbourhood to treat wild animals *and* people more fairly? What might everyone need to feel more included, welcomed, and cared for? Who could help you make these changes?

Are there any people, wild animals, or other parts of nature that you would like to add to your *circle of compassion* (**Workbook Page 2**)?

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Lesson #5: Love for Wildlife

In this lesson, children will practice kindness and love toward all wild animals.

SHARE: Think of a time when you helped a pet or a wild animal. Why did you help them? How did you feel after you helped them?

CONNECT: Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre helps over 5,000 animals every year, from salamanders to coyotes! Go to **Page 20** of your **Workbook** and match the animal with how you think the wildlife centre should help them.

There are many clues that tell us an animal might need help. What clues do you give when *you* need help? Take a moment to act out how you look and sound when you are:

hungry | thirsty | hurt | scared | sick | cold | tired | sad

Who helps you the most when you need it? Does this person live with you? If yes, ask this person if you can help them with any task today, no matter how big or small. Once you have helped this person, thank them for spending time with you and for taking care of you.

If this person does not live with you, draw a picture of this person helping you. When you see them next, give them this drawing and tell them how you feel when they help you. Then, thank them for taking care of you.

Pause and Ponder

Do you think pets and wild animals act the same way you do when they need help?

How would the world be different if animals could talk and ask for help?

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Lesson #5: Love for Wildlife

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and see if any wild animals need your help. Are they acting like *you* act when you need help? Answer the questions on **Page 21** in your **Workbook** to help you decide. If they do *not* need your help, thank this animal for spending time with you and look for another wild animal.

LOVE:

If you find a wild animal that needs help, go to **Pages 22-25** in your **Workbook** and choose a helpful action. You have practiced many of these actions already and now is your chance to repeat an action or practice a new way of loving wildlife!

For your final activity, take a moment to send loving wishes to all the wild animals you've met in your neighbourhood and all of the wild animals on the planet. Go to **Page 26** in your **Workbook** for an example of a loving wish you can send.

REFLECT:

Who else might need a loving wish from you today? A friend? Someone in your family? A stranger? Yourself?

Are there any people, wild animals, or other parts of nature that are still missing from your *circle of compassion* (**Workbook Page 2**)? If so, add them now. How many more people, wild animals, or other parts of nature have you added since Lesson #1?

Do you think you can do more to love wildlife? Is there a promise you would like to make to help wild animals be happy and healthy in your neighbourhood?

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Grade 1-3 'Home Learning' Lesson Plans

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Content Inspired by:

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Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre is a registered charity that rehabilitates sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in southeastern Ontario. Please visit sandypineswildlife.org to make a donation.