

Love Wildlife

Kindergarten 'Home Learning' Lesson Plans

The following offers **five** interactive lessons that nurture wildlife empathy and compassion in young learners.

Use the accompanying **Love Wildlife Kindergarten '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

Kindergarten Lesson #1: Kindness in my Heart

This lesson introduces kindness toward others, by listening and speaking with an open heart.

SHARE: Share about a time when you've been nice to yourself. How did that feel? Share about a time when you've been nice to another person, a pet or a wild animal? How did that feel?

CONNECT: We all have big hearts with lots of room to share our love with all people, wild animals, plants, and other parts of nature. Who do you make room for in your heart? Who are you nice to? On **Page 2** of your **Workbook**, draw a big heart. Then, draw all of the people, wild animals, plants, and other parts of nature you love inside your heart.

Choose one of the animals you drew inside your heart and imagine you are that animal. How do you sound? Make that sound now. How do you act when you are having the best day ever? Act that out now. How do you act when a person is nice to you? What about when a person is not nice to you? How do you act when you are hurt?

Debrief

Think about a time when someone was nice to you. Did you act the same way your animal did?

Think about a time when someone was not nice to you. Did you act the same way as your animal did?

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Kindergarten Lesson #1: Kindness in my Heart

EXPLORE: Practice opening your ears and listening to others. Start with someone in your home. Ask, "How are you feeling today?" and listen without interrupting.

Outdoor Exploration

Go outside and look for wild animals in the sky, the trees, the bushes, the grass, the flowers, under rocks, under logs, or anywhere else you pass by near your home. Walk slowly! Some animals are tiny, hidden, or scare easily.

When you see an animal, ask them with a quiet voice, "How are you feeling today?" and listen for an answer. Draw pictures of these animals on **Pages 3-4** of your **Workbook**. Do you think these animals are happy, so-so, or sad today? Answer this question in your **Workbook**.

LOVE: Tell each person in your home one thing you love about them. If you have a pet, tell each pet in your home one thing you love about them too. Next, tell a wild animal in your neighbourhood one thing you love about them. Finally, tell yourself one thing you love about you!

REFLECT: How did it feel to say nice things to people in your home?

How did it feel to say nice things to animals?

Is there anyone else you want to say a nice thing to?

Would you like to add any new people, animals or other parts of nature to your heart (Workbook Page 2)?

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Kindergarten Lesson #2: My Natural Neighbours

In this lesson, children will meet wild animals and explore wild animal homes in their neighbourhood.

SHARE: Have you ever seen a wild animal around your home? Share your favourite memory of seeing a wild animal.

CONNECT: Some wild animals live *outside* of your home and some live *inside* your home. Go to **Page 5** of your **Workbook** and match the name of the animal with their photo. Have you met any of these animals *outside* in your neighbourhood?

Search *inside* your home for wild animals. Go to **Page 6** of your **Workbook** for examples. Check on plants, in basements, around windows, on ceilings, or anywhere else you think a wild animal might live in your home.

Then, look closely at each animal. What colour is it? What are they doing (sleeping, eating or moving)? What do you think they eat? What do they do for fun? Draw one or more animal(s) in your **Workbook**.

Debrief

Why do you think this animal likes your home?
What do *you* like most about your home?

How do you feel about sharing your home with a wild animal?

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Kindergarten Lesson #2: My Natural Neighbours

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and look at your home. What does it look like? Then, look at the home next to yours. How is this home like yours? Use the photos on **Page 7** of your **Workbook** to compare homes. Count how many other homes you see from your front door.

Then, look for a wild animal home in your neighbourhood. Go to **Page 8** of your **Workbook** for examples. Draw any animal homes you find in your **Workbook**. Who do you think lives in these homes? How are these homes just like yours? Count how many animal homes you see around you.

LOVE:

Make an animal home outside from sticks, leaves, and other items you find on the ground. Who is this home for? Once finished, offer a kind wish to the animal you want to live there. Start by placing your hand over your heart, and then say, "May [the animal] be safe, be happy, and be peaceful in this home". Visit this home as often as you can, and make this kind wish each time.

REFLECT: How did it feel to do a nice thing for an animal?

What nice thing could you do for the people next door?

Would you like to do a nice thing for anyone else? This could be a pet, another wild animal, or anyone else in your family.

Would you like to add any new people, animals or other parts of nature to your heart (Workbook Page 2)?

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Kindergarten Lesson #3: Just Like Me

This lesson introduces children to things they have in common with wild animals.

SHARE: Look at someone in your home and find way that they look the same as you. For example, they might have two eyes like you or have the same hair colour.

CONNECT: Whether we look the same or different from the people or wild animals around us, we all need the same things to keep our bodies happy! What makes *your* body happy? Answer all the questions on **Page 9** of your **Workbook**. Then, do one thing to make your body happier right now. For example, have a snack, drink some water or give someone a hug.

Now imagine you are a wild animal. Pick one that you have seen in your neighbourhood. Do you think they have a tummy like you? What about feet? A heart? Do they need the same things as you to make their body happy?

While imagining you are this animal, act out the following:

1. How does this animal eat?
2. How does this animal move around?
3. How does this animal look when their body is happy?

Debrief

How are you like the animal you chose? Do you look the same? What is one thing you both need to make your body happy?

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Kindergarten Lesson #3: Just Like Me

EXPLORE: Look in your home for fruits, vegetables, or seeds. Collect 2-3 items that you like to eat and put them in a pile. Go to **Page 10** of your **Workbook** for examples of food you may find.

Outdoor Exploration

Go outside and look for food that wild animals like to eat. Use the same examples on **Page 10** of your **Workbook**. Collect 2-3 items and bring them back to your pile of food. Does the wild animal food look the same as yours? How is it different? Which animals might eat the food you found outside?



LOVE: Just like you, wild animals need healthy food to eat. But, sometimes they eat unhealthy things like bread or litter and become very sick. First, tell one person in your home that bread is not safe for wild animals. Then, with the help of an adult, go outside and pick up at least one piece of litter.

If you see a wild animal outside, pause and notice how that animal is just like you. Do they have two eyes? Are they cleaning too? Wish them well by saying out loud, "I will take good care of you, just like I will take good care of me".

REFLECT: How did it feel to pick up litter in your neighbourhood?

What else could you do to help a wild animal have a happy body?

Would you like to add any new people, animals or other parts of nature to your heart (Workbook Page 2)?

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Kindergarten Lesson #4: Fairness for All

In this lesson, children will practice being fair to all wild animals.

SHARE: Think of a time when someone was fair to you. Maybe they included you in a game, or shared a crayon with you because they had many and you had none. How did it feel to be treated fairly?

CONNECT: Go to **Page 11** of your **Workbook** and look at the photos of wild animals. Circle how that animal makes you feel (love, scared or mad). Then, go to **Page 12** of your **Workbook** and ask someone in your home to circle how *they* feel about each animal.



Choose an animal from **Page 12** of your **Workbook** that the person did not love. Draw a picture of that person and the animal together. Give them your drawing and tell them one thing you like about that animal. Ask the person to share one thing *they* like about the animal too. Then, draw a picture of *you* with an animal you do not love. Show someone in your home and share one thing *you* like about that animal. Ask that person to share one thing *they* like about the animal too.

Debrief

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

How did it feel to say something nice about an animal you do not love? Do you feel any differently about that animal now?



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Kindergarten Lesson #4: Fairness for All

EXPLORE: Look inside your home for wild animals (look back to **Page 6** of your **Workbook** for examples). Practice being fair to each animal you find by saying a gentle "hello" and answering the questions on **Page 13** of your **Workbook**.

Outdoor Exploration

Go outside and look for more wild animals. Check in the grass, dirt, under logs, in trees, in the sky, in water, and anywhere else you think a wild animal might live. For each animal you find, say a gentle "hello" and answer the questions found on **Page 13** of your **Workbook**.

LOVE: Offer an apology to all the wild animals you may have treated unfairly before. You can do this by going outside, placing a hand over your heart, and repeating the following words in any language you wish:

"Dear wild animals, I am sorry for treating you unfairly. You deserve to be happy and safe, just like me!"

REFLECT: How does it feel to apologize to wild animals?

Are there any people or pets you have treated unfairly and wish to apologize to?

Would you like to add any new people, animals or other parts of nature to your heart (Workbook Page 2)?

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Kindergarten Lesson #5: Loving Wildlife

In this lesson, children take action to show kindness and love toward wild animals.

SHARE: Think of a time when you asked for help. How did it feel when someone helped you?

CONNECT: Click [here](#) and listen to the story called **10 Things I Can Do to Help My World** by **Melanie Walsh**. Choose one thing from the story and do this in your home now.

Which things from the story help wild animals? Go to **Page 14** in your **Workbook** and match the action with the wild animal who you think would be helped the most by that action.

Debrief

How did it feel to help the world today?

How else do you help the world?

Is there anyone in your home who could use your help today? Ask them to find out.

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Kindergarten Lesson #5: Loving Wildlife

EXPLORE: *Outdoor Exploration*

Go outside and see if any wild animals need your help. Are they sick or hurt? Do they have what they need to have a happy body? When you find an animal, watch them carefully and answer the questions on **Pages 15-16** in your **Workbook**. If they do not need your help, you can say out loud, "I am happy you are safe". Then, look for another animal and answer the same questions in your **Workbook**.

LOVE: If you find a wild animal that needs help, go to **Pages 17-19** 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!

REFLECT: Why should we help people? What would happen if we walked away from a person that needed help?

Why should we help wild animals? What would happen if we walked away from an animal that needed help?

Are there any new people, animals or other parts of nature that you would like to add to your heart (Workbook Page 2)? Do you need to make your heart drawing bigger, so it can fit more people, animals, or other parts of nature?

Is there a promise you would like to make to help wild animals be safe and happy in your neighbourhood?

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Kindergarten 'Home Learning' Lesson Plans

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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.