



Bears in your schoolyard.

What you can do.

1 If you see a bear on or around school property:

- GO INSIDE the school right away
- TELL the first adult you see

If you are walking home, or just getting off the school bus and you see a bear:

- Get to the nearest house
- Tell the first adult you see

3 If the bear MOVES TOWARD you:

- SLOWLY BACK AWAY toward the school while MAKING NOISE
- REMOVE and drop your backpack if it contains food
- YELL at the bear to GO AWAY!
- If the bear continues to move toward you, stop and keep shouting at the bear. Keep moving slowly toward the school whenever the bear stops
- DO NOT "play dead"
- DO NOT turn and run
- GET INSIDE the school as soon as you can, without running
- TELL the first adult you see

2 If the bear sees YOU:

- DON'T APPROACH the bear
- SLOWLY BACK AWAY toward the school or house while watching the bear
- DO NOT TURN AND RUN
- TELL the first adult you see



BEARS CAN BE DANGEROUS

To report bear problems call:
1 866 514-2327 (1 866 514-BEAR)

4 Help keep bears away:

- Keep your lunch inside the school
- Do not leave food, wrappings or lunch bags in the schoolyard. Take them inside the school to throw away
- Tell your teacher if you see food or garbage left in open bins or in the schoolyard
- Encourage your school to purchase bear-resistant garbage containers
- Encourage nearby residents to be Bear Wise

For more information, visit our website:
ontario.ca/bearwise

There's more ... see over!



Bear Basics

- Black bears are not like friendly cartoon bears. They are smart, curious, powerful and potentially dangerous.
- Adult males can weigh between 120-270 kilograms (250-600 pounds).
- Adult females can weigh between 45-180 kilograms (100-400 pounds).
- Most black bears in Ontario have black fur, but a few can be dark brown to light brown.
- In Ontario, black bears live in forests from Lake Ontario in the south to Hudson Bay in the north.
- Black bears are omnivores. They eat plants, animals and human foods that are easy to get at.
- Black bears feed from the middle of April until late fall.
- In the fall, black bears eat for up to 20 hours a day!
- Black bears eat a variety of foods. They get most of their food energy by feeding on summer berry crops like blueberries, strawberries and raspberries, as well as hazel nuts, mountain ash, acorns and beech nuts in the fall.



Artist: Shayna LaBelle-Beadman ©OMNR

- Black bears will travel more than 100 kilometres (km) to find food. If black bears cannot find natural foods, they will travel to find other food, including garbage.
- They can double their body weight during summer and fall getting ready for winter.
- By early November, most black bears move into their dens for the winter.
- Black bears are an important part of our ecosystem.

Black bears are not usually dangerous animals. Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.

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(1 866 514-BEAR) TTY 705 945-7641

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BE DANGEROUS**

Illustrations by Shayna LaBelle-Beadman from *Nuisance black bears and what to do with them*, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Northeast Sciences & Technology. TN-017, 2000 Queen's Printer for Ontario.

*There's more ...
see over!*



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