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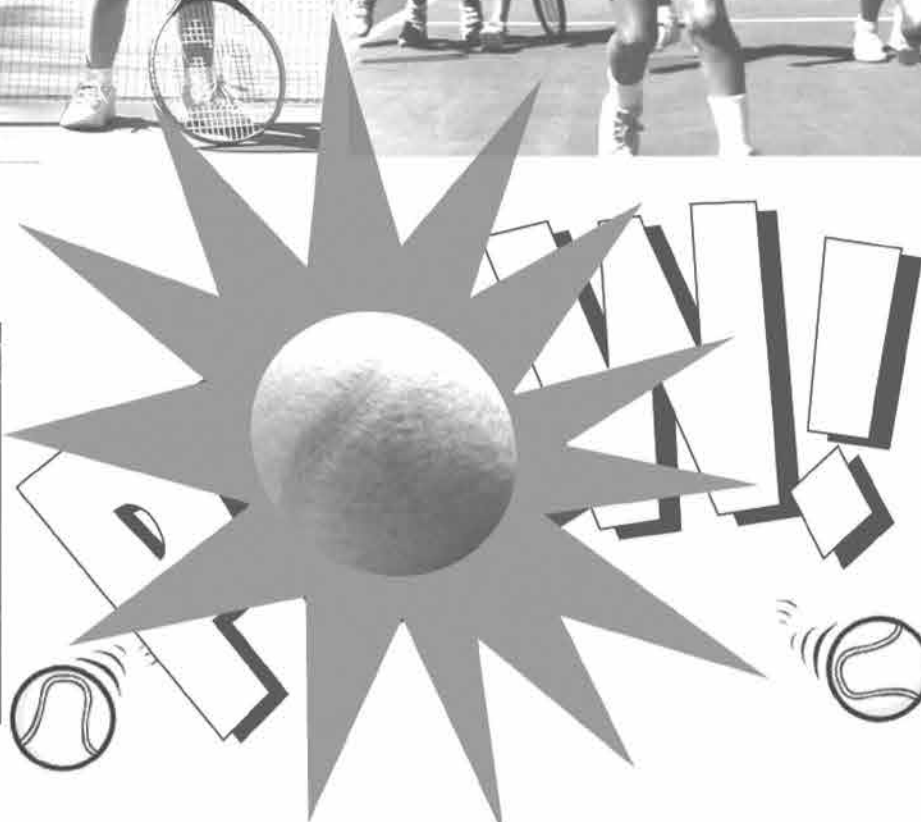
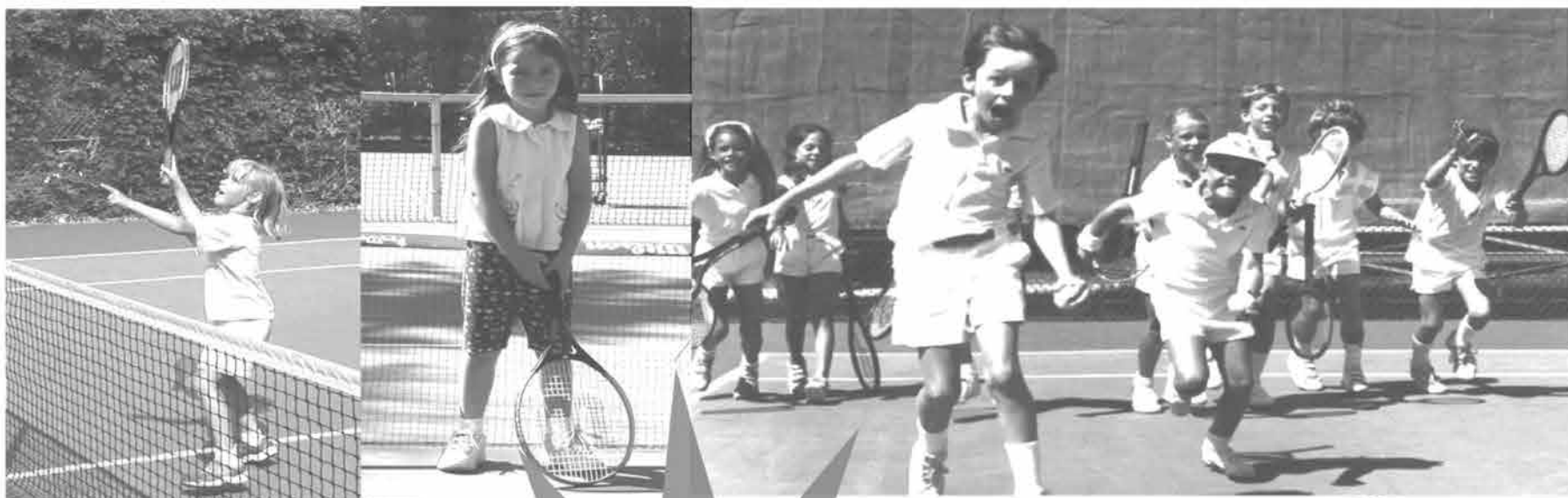
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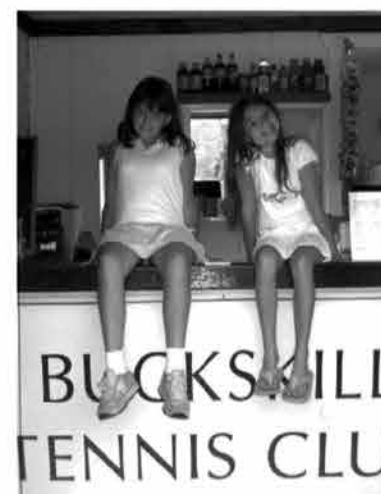
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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

This is a very special issue about baby bears. I can't think of anything more adorable than baby bears. In this special issue are stories, jokes and puzzles about baby bears. I hope you like the cover, stories, puzzles and the jokes. We wish our readers a wonderful summer, and that everyone enjoys this special issue about baby bears.

Sincerely,
Eric Wald

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How A Mother Bear Cares for Her Cubs

by Rosemary Szczygiel

A mother's loving care is something most kinds of animals, including humans like you and me, experience and depend on. Bear cubs have amazing moms who care for them from the moment they're born.

Brown bears, grizzlies, polar bears, and pandas - there are many different kinds of bears, but the way a mother bear cares for her cubs is something very special that all these types of bears have in common. Mother bears help their little ones grow up strong, safe, and smart.



A mother bear will care for her cubs from the time they are born until they are old enough to take care of themselves. Cubs are usually born in winter, when bears are hibernating. Because the mother bear hibernates in the winter, her cubs are born in warm and cozy dens, often in caves or deep holes dug into the ground. The cubs are tiny when they're born. They are blind at first, can't walk, and have no fur. But the mother bear keeps them warm with her body heat and nurses them even while she's hibernating. Before they leave their dens in spring, cubs will grow to be about six to 15 pounds.

Cubs may still be small and wobbly, but they're curious and ready to explore the world outside. This is when their lessons really begin. For example, a mother bear will often lead her cubs to a sturdy tree, the kind of place they can climb if there is any danger on the ground, while she is busy looking for food for them. Cubs will learn to climb and cry out an alert, which will bring the mother bear running to the rescue. She will protect her cubs with her life and be highly aggressive with anyone she thinks means them harm. That includes other bears, and even humans. If a danger comes near, the mother bear will stand and growl, and chase the predator away. Grizzly bear moms are so protective that they will fight off much bigger animals. She'll do whatever it takes to protect her cubs!

The cubs learn how to stay safe from danger. She teaches them how to stay hidden and quiet if a predator is nearby. She teaches them how to find food in their habitat. Mother bear will teach her cubs to dig for roots, break open logs to find insects, and how to catch fish. She protects them from danger, helps them find food, and keeps them warm at night. Cubs stay close to their mother for one to three years. She teaches them to grow strong and independent. Cubs often copy what their mothers do, just like human kids pay attention and copy what their parents do. When the cubs are old enough, they leave their mother and start life on their own. Thanks to mom, they have learned everything they need to survive independently. The mother bear might have new cubs next year, and will start the process all over again! A mother bear loves her cubs. She is a teacher, and a protector. More great information about bear cubs can be found at wildlifeinformer.com.

Winnie the Bear

written by Connie McGuiness



Captain Harry Colebourn was an army veterinarian for horses during World War I. On August 24, 1914, at a train station, Harry saw a man with a baby bear on a leash. He felt the bear would not be taken care of properly and suspected that the man was a trapper. He offered the man 20 dollars for the cub - a small fortune back then - which the man accepted.

Harry took the bear with him on the train to begin his travels to the army camp. At first, the colonel of the army didn't like the idea, but agreed to let the bear go on this long journey. The soldiers set up camp, and Harry worked at the horse hospital there. Soon, the bear won the hearts of all the soldiers.

The bear was named Winnie, after Harry's hometown, Winnipeg. Eventually, the soldiers were sent to battle. Harry Colebourn had to make the difficult decision to part with baby Winnie, since it would not be safe for her. He took her to the London Zoo to live. There, he had a close friend that worked at the zoo. He trusted his friend would take good care of Winnie.

At the zoo a little boy named Christopher Robin Milne saw the bear and fell in love with Winnie. Christopher Robin had a teddy bear that he decided to name Winnie, after the bear in the zoo. Christopher Robin visited the bear often. They had such a special friendship. He was even allowed to go in the enclosure to play with Winnie. This friendship inspired A.A. Milne, the father of Christopher Robin, to write the famous story of *Winnie the Pooh*. Captain Harry Colebourn's great granddaughter Lindsey Mattick also wrote a book called *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*. In this book you can see real photos of the bear, Winnie. These wonderful books can be found at your local library for you to read and enjoy.

In Harry's hometown of Winnipeg, located in a playground, there is a bronze statue dedicated in his honor of himself and Winnie the bear. The statue portrays the love he had for Winnie and how this became the inspiration of the famous and beloved children's book, *Winnie the Pooh*.



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My Teddy Bear "BUSTER"

by Debbie Tuma

Hey Kids!! Do you have a favorite teddy bear? Lots of children grow up with a favorite bear they had since they were little. It often gives them a feeling of calm and security. My parents gave me my first teddy bear when I was only two weeks old, and he was named "Buster." He was about two feet high, and had short, light brown fur. He had black and white buttons for eyes, and a red nose and smiling mouth, made out of yarn. And somehow, Buster made life's journey with me, and I still have him today, after over 60 years!

The joke in our family, was that I was the same size as Buster when I got him....and we had pictures of us lying side by side. Of course, I kept growing bigger and bigger each year, but Buster and I slept side by side throughout my childhood, and he almost felt like an old friend. As I got older, I would just put him on my bed, with the pillows and other stuffed animals.

As I grew up and moved from place to place in my adult life, all those other animals went away, but somehow I could not let go of Buster, because he was my first one, and maybe because he had been with me through thick and thin. More than anyone else, he heard all my childhood aches and pains, and all my secrets. And he just listened.

Today, much of his stuffing has flattened out, his brown fur is faded and missing in spots, the black paint has partly peeled off in his eyes, and some of the red yarn is also missing from his nose and mouth. But he still has a smile, and warm loving eyes. And to me, he is still "Buster Bear."

For years, he has been propped up on the headboard of my bed, but eventually he was moved to sit on a chair in my bedroom, next to one rag doll with red yarn pigtails and a green dress, that my mother made from scratch. Being side by side for so long, I figured they became friends.

As we all go through life with its ups and downs, it's sometimes nice to hold onto some memories of the past. And although I don't have children, I will some day pass Buster down to my grand niece in Virginia, who was just born a year ago, and is almost the same size now.

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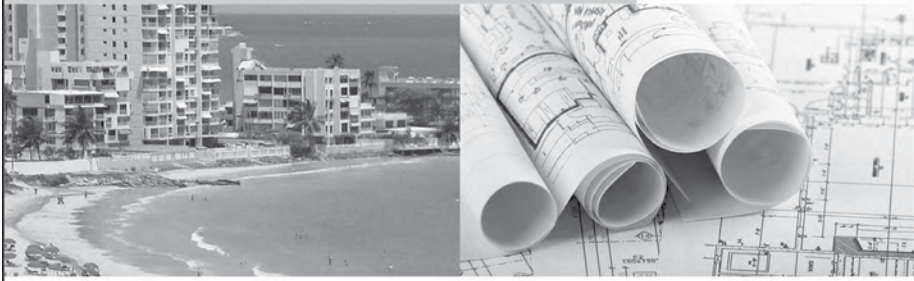
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Baby Bears In The Wild

by Paula Timpson

Baby bears, or cubs, are born blind, without hair. They are born in dens in the winter, staying with their moms, feeding on her milk for one and a half to two years. They are totally dependent on their mothers. A year-old cub is called a yearling.

Cubs like to play and wrestle with their brothers and sisters, teaching them survival skills. River crossings are challenging, yet cubs can do it. Polar bears stay with their mothers longer, up to three years. Mama bears are very protective of their baby cubs.

They are territorial. If you see a cub alone, it is best to leave it alone. Its mother will return later. If you feel it may be orphaned, report it to the local wildlife center. Baby cubs can survive without their mothers, but it will be more challenging.

Bears hibernate in the winter and don't eat for months. They are great swimmers. Bears love to eat fish. They are wonderful at catching fish with their big claws. Bears have a strong sense of smell, seven times better than a dog's, helping them find delicious berries, which they enjoy. They can even sense by smell underwater. Bears are great at climbing and digging. Bears are omnivores, eating both plants and animals. Fruit, nuts, honey and other plant parts are their favorites. Bears are roamers, covering wide areas. They are good at problem solving, and can figure out how to open jars and get food. Bears make various sounds, growling, friendly grunts to friends and cubs. Bears are social.

Once cubs are grown, mothers go off on their own after raising their cubs. By digging for food, bears spread seeds, creating habitats for other animals. Bears are an important part of our world. They are strong since birth, and are smart survivors. Cubs learn everything from their mothers. It is a beautiful circle of life and love. Baby bears in the wild make life a richer place to be, thanks to their survival skills and strong examples of fully lived lives.



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Michael The White Face Clown

by Eric Wald

His name was Michael. He was a white face clown. It took hours to put on his grease-paint. He loved his clown outfit from Mooseburger's costumes, his clown shoes from Spears Clown Shoes, his skull cap, humongous clown noses and his beautiful clown ruffle collar.

Some of the clown skits they did in the circus were the baseball skit, the invisible dog walking skit, the policeman skit where he chases a clown robber, a skit where he rides a real pot-bellied pig, and the donkey skit, where he tries to tame a pig! Everyone loved Michael the clown; he was a first-class white face clown who loved to have the circus spectators cheer him on till they dropped from laughter with tears, in the circus of the world.



Bruno's Mission

written and illustrated by Tristan Amani Ward, age 10



One day, out in the woods of the Poconos mountains, lived a bear called Bruno. Now Bruno was a very young and cute cub. But, as soon as he turned four in bear years, he needed to learn how to hunt!

So, he went to hunt five times before he was five in bear years. When he turned five, his Mama Bear sent him to go by himself. Meanwhile, little Bruno said, "All by myself?"

But then, Mama Bear said, "You've got this Bruno! I have full faith in you!"

Then little Bruno said, "Yes, I believe in myself!" And then, he went to hunt. When he came back two hours later, he caught two fish, one chicken, and a bird.

His mom said, "I am so proud of you! I knew you could do it!"



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Gregg The Bear Sculptor

by Connie McGuinness

One Sunday afternoon, I had the pleasure of meeting Gregg Klewicki. Gregg has been a professional wood carver for the past 30 years. In the early years, he started out making sculptures out of clay, eventually working with wood. Before Gregg became a full-time wood carver, he drove a truck. He changed professions because he wanted to do something rewarding. He said, "When I used to drive a truck, at the end of the day, it was just an empty tank of gas."

"I wanted to do something rewarding, something to show the hard work I put in."



Gregg carves beautiful sculptures, many of which are bears which are very popular. He also does many other animals such as dogs, cats, birds, fish, and any other requests people have. He even carved a large peacock which can be seen at the Milleridge Inn, a lovely restaurant located in Jericho, Long Island. Gregg does a lot of his wood carvings at Milleridge, where he has his own workspace to do his sculptures.

If you peak over the fence, you can see him at work using his chainsaw and other various wood working tools. These sculptures are then carefully painted and stained. Gregg makes his own stains from high quality artist paints. Most of his sculptures are three to six feet high, some are even larger at 13 feet. Each piece takes up to two weeks or more to complete.

He gets his wood supply from various tree companies that remove trees. They give it to him free since they would have to pay someone to discard it. He prefers pine, but will use whatever he gets. He does, however, have to avoid hardwood - for example, from locust trees, since they would break the teeth on his chainsaw. Besides working at the Milleridge Inn, Gregg will also go to people's homes and carve sculptures from trees on their property. These trees might be sentimental to them, have died, or a risk of falling on their house. He will make a sculpture out of it. He will chop the top off and carve the rest, leaving the stump in place.

Another way is to cut the whole tree down till it becomes a log. He can then carve it there or do it at home. Gregg once carved an 18-foot baseball bat out of a tree for a professional baseball player named Frank Catalanotto. Gregg travels across the island and upstate New York to carve. He will personally deliver your sculptures as well. Once he delivered a carved bench he custom made all the way to Tennessee for Dollywood theme park.

Gregg is a self-taught artist wood carver. He has made thousands of sculptures. Gregg also works at festivals and private parties where people can watch him create a sculpture. He once did a party for twins where he made two bears holding hands. He's been interviewed by *Channel Twelve* and *Channel Eleven News*.

This work is not for everyone and can be dangerous, sometimes involving working on a high scaffold carrying a heavy chainsaw. Safety goggles can fog up, making it difficult to see. You can tell by the quality of Gregg's work and speaking to him that he loves his job.

He stated, "I can't imagine doing anything else," and "It's brought me a lot of great experiences, and I've met a lot of interesting people". He also says that "The best part of the job is how happy it makes people".

If you are interested in having a sculpture made or one that is already made, you can reach him at (631) 692-7347. He resides in East Meadow, Long Island, and his website is Greggthewoodcarver.com

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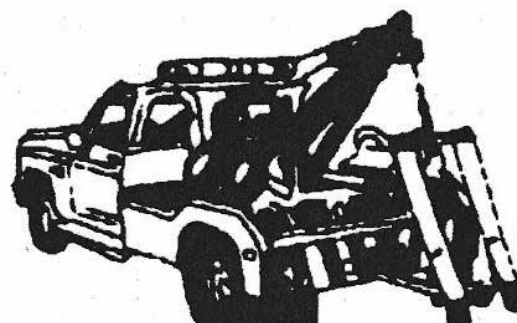
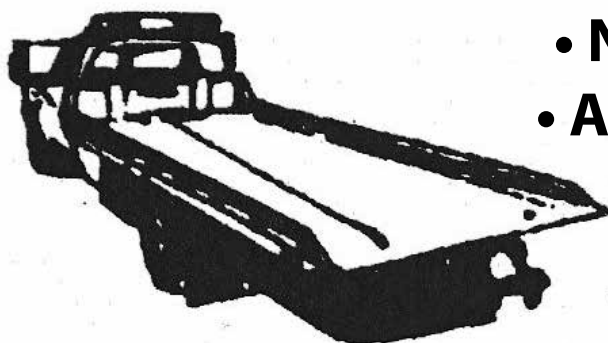
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Baby Bears in Zoos

by Paula Timpson

Baby bears in zoos are special to watch. The way they interact with their mothers and nature is beautiful to see. Baby bears in zoos are important ambassadors for their species. People see them and are inspired to learn more about bears and their cubs. They make people want to help save bears.

Polar bears are decreasing. Zoos face challenges keeping their polar bears. The Saint Louis Zoo brought in two-year-old twin polar bears, Kallu and Kallik, in March 2025. The Woodland Park Zoo welcomed a sloth bear cub in January 2025. The Detroit Zoo got a new polar bear, Haley, in March 2025. The Fort Worth Zoo brought in two black bear cubs, Cinnamon and Raisin, who were rescued and brought to the zoo.

Zookeepers taking care of baby bears focus on nutrition, and a safe, fun atmosphere. They provide special milk formulas, foods, and fruits similar to those out in the wild they need for nutritional support and growth. Baby cubs change from milk to solid foods like rice cereal, soft fruits, vegetables and puppy and bear chow as they grow.

Activities like hiding food help natural behavior and mental strengthening. Zookeepers give veterinary checkups. Burying food and enrichment devices encourage cubs to work for their food. Cubs can climb in their natural habitats at zoos. Honey logs and food balls are sweet inspirations. Zookeepers give comfort to cubs if they are afraid. Shade and cool water are provided.

Zookeepers may wear camouflage outfits to prevent bears from getting used to people. *The Zookeeper's Wife* is a lovely movie showing the beauty of caring for animals. Unconditional love is best in life for all living creatures.

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Little Bear's First Swim

by Vicki Bonaguro

Little Bear was a very careful bear. He wasn't really afraid of anything; he was just... careful. He did everything slowly and very carefully. He liked being with Mama Bear, because she kept him safe and happy. He did not have to worry about being careful when he was with Mama Bear. He didn't really like going with other bears, because he wasn't sure they were very careful.

One day, Mama Bear said it was time for Little Bear to see the water. He lived in the woods with his Mama and his Dad Bear in a place called Long Island. There were lots of woods for him to run and play in. There was a big, beautiful pond that he could play in if he wanted to. He did not want to. The pond was one place that he was afraid of. The pond was dark and scary to him.

Mama Bear said it was time for him to have his first, very first, swimming lesson. His swimming teacher was named Kim Bear. Kim Bear was very friendly. She was excited and happy. Little Bear was very careful. He did not want to get too close to Kim Bear. He did not want her to take him into the pond. He did not want to have a swimming lesson. Kim Bear said, "Come on, we will have fun!"

Little Bear carefully put his toes in the water. It was cold! Kim Bear was already in the water. She said, "Come on, Little Bear. Let's go swimming!" Little Bear was scooped up by Kim Bear and placed in a bear hug with his feet behind him. Kim Bear held his feet and said, "Kick, kick, kick, kick, kick, kick." Little Bear wasn't sure he liked this, but it was kind of fun.

Kim Bear told Little Bear to put his eyes in the water and blow bubbles. It was really nice looking underwater at the fish in the pond. It was fun blowing bubbles and having them pop around his face! Kim Bear held Little Bear while he kicked and blew bubbles with his face in the water. The fish were wondering why a little bear was in their pond! Little Bear laughed and played. He really enjoyed his first swimming lesson!

If you would like to take a swimming lesson, have Mommy or Daddy call Art Of Swimming at 631-839-7946. Kim and Vicki will make your swimming lesson lots of fun, and you will learn how to swim, so you can play in the pool!

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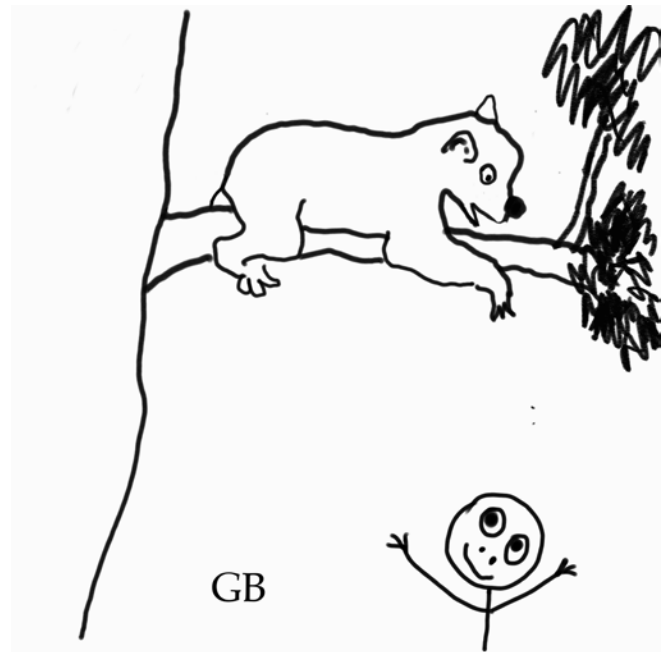
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Little Bear Jokes

written and illustrated by Gregory Bullock

What coat didn't Mama Bear have to buy for Little Bear?

His own fur coat.

What did the psychiatrist say to Little Bear when he felt bad?

Just grin and bear it!

How did Little Bear run to see his friend Emily?

On his little feet!

What kind of birthday soup did Little Bear make?

None. Mama Bear got him a big birthday cake!

Which way did Little Bear fly out of the tree?

Down! Little bears can only fly down, silly!

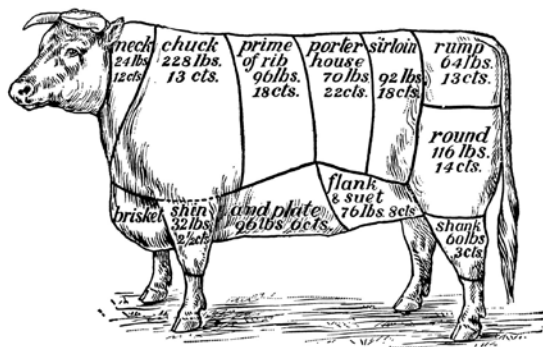
What did Little Peep the duckling say to Little Bear?

Peep peep!

Little Bear climbed up a tree,
looking for his friend Emily.

He looked all around,
then down to the ground
and there was his best friend Emily!
(See cartoon.)

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Bocce Ball

by Chris Clark

Bocce ball is a sport of ancient descent which combines precision, strategy, and social interaction. Often played on a compact court with a gravel or grass surface, the game involves tossing larger balls (bocce) toward a smaller target ball, called the pallino. The objective is to land one's bocce balls closer to the pallino than the opponents via throws and coming up with favorable positioning.



The roots of bocce trace back thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians were known to play a game involving stones, with variations dating back to the Roman Empire. However, the modern form of bocce as we know it emerged in Italy around the Middle Ages. It quickly became a popular pastime among all social classes, from peasants to nobility. In fact, the name "bocce" comes from the Italian word *boccia*, meaning "bowl."

The sport eventually spread across Europe, particularly in France and England, and later to the Americas with the arrival of Italian immigrants in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, bocce is played globally and is especially popular in Italy, the United States, South America, and Australia.

While bocce may not boast the global celebrity athletes seen in other sports, there are still renowned players within competitive circuits. Italian players such as Gianluca Formicone and Marco Luraghi have dominated international competitions, with multiple world championship titles. Mr. Formicone, known for his accuracy and calm demeanor, is considered one of the greatest in the modern era. Another standout, Argentina's Guillermo Montemerlo, made a name for himself in South America and earned international recognition in World Bocce Championships.

Bocce is more than just a game—it's a cultural tradition and a way for communities to connect. Its accessibility makes it ideal for players of all ages and skill levels, while its depth of strategy attracts serious competitors. Whether played casually at a park or competitively on the world stage, bocce continues to endure as one of the oldest and most beloved sports in the world.



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Why Are Baby Bears So Cute?

written by Debbie Tuma

Hey Kids! Do you think baby bears are cute? Many people think they are cute when they see them in the zoo or other places. Some of reasons they think this is that baby bears bring out the care taking instincts in humans — because they have large heads, big eyes, a rounded body and a small nose and



mouth. They are also soft and have fuzzy fur, and seem cuddly. They remind people of Teddy bears!

It's human nature to want to pet baby animals...but be aware that baby bears are still wild, so they can also be dangerous. (*Not to mention that their big moms can be nearby!* - Editor.) You can see them and appreciate them, but don't get too close. You can see baby bears in zoos.

Baby bears are called cubs. Their mothers give birth to them in dens. They are born blind, covered with fine hair, and they nurse on their mother's milk. There are anywhere from one to six cubs born at one time.

Because baby bears are so cute, toy Teddy bears have become so popular. Many of you have probably had stuffed Teddy bears as little kids, or have them now. You probably even named them. You can find them in stores, in all shapes and sizes, but one thing is sure—they are very cute!

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

My classified daughter wants to try an ICT setting for one of her classes. She is currently in seventh grade in the 15:1 setting. Her grades are good. I am concerned about the level of support.

Just for clarification for our readers, ICT is an integrated co-teaching classroom with both a regular education teacher and a special education teacher, and a 15:1 setting is a special class setting where all children are classified. The previous has general and special education students. It is great to hear that her grades are good, but as you say, that is just one part. Often, an ICT class will have more rigor and more pace, and this can be overwhelming or can be taught on a level not in line with your daughter's academic needs. I would suggest a 30-day trial with a CSE to reconvene with the data to determine if the placement is appropriate. Please also ensure data is being collected; and not just with grades, but emotional and social feedback, too!

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,:

School is about to start, and I dread the homework routine. It can be very stressful for our family, and I would like to start this school year with a plan.

Perfect timing for this question. Sit down with all members and determine the times that work for all of them. This is the tricky part, but block out family dinner times and other times that are nonnegotiable for your family. At this time, you should have three choices. If all three work for your family, allow your child to choose what they feel is best. This provides autonomy and independence and will yield the highest results. Once this time has been decided, place it on the family calendar and do your best due diligence to keep to this by not planning appointments during this time. Routine and consistency are the keys to success. Perhaps a special "reward" after the first two weeks of school will show how proud you are of your child for sticking to the routine.

As the school year is approaching, there are some great interactive tools that might be helpful for your children.

Quizlet.com offers great study tools resources. Khanacademy.com features tutorials for all those "pesky" math problems.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS: Have a question about your child's or student's education or learning? You may contact Ms. Spiral Notebook at waldoandtulip@optonline.net, with "Ms. Spiral Notebook" in the subject line. You may also fax your question to us at 631-808-3248, or mail it to her c/o The Waldo Tribune, P.O. Box 2587, Sag Harbor, NY 11963.



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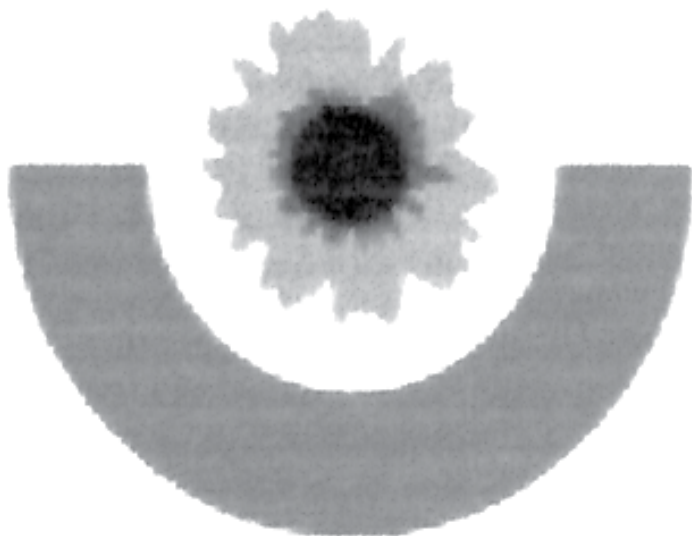
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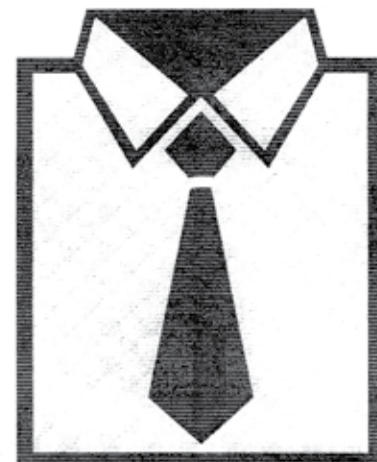


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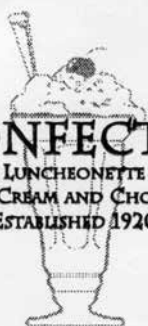


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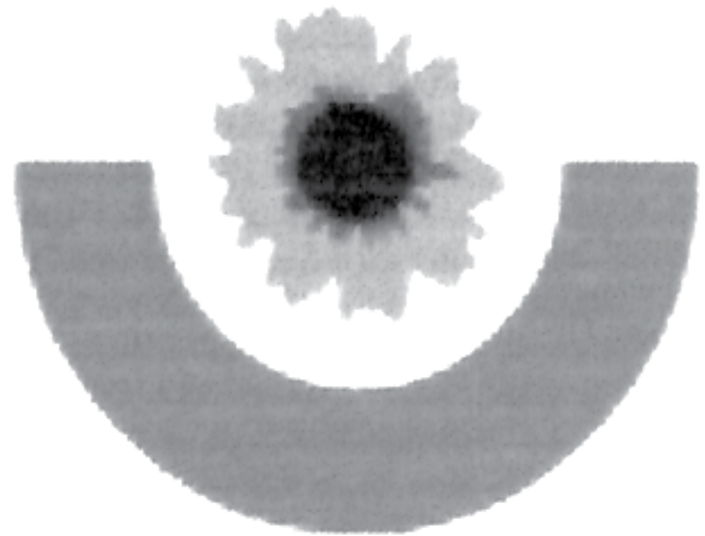
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Letter to Waldo

My name is Jude. I am four years old. My favorite food is sushi. My favorite stuffed animal is an elephant. I also love Winnie the Pooh books. My favorite game is Pin the Tail on the Donkey. My favorite toy is Transformer's Grim Lock. My favorite animal is a Rattlesnake. When I grow up, I want to be an astronaut because I like flying. I love *The Waldo Tribune*. I like carnivals. I love my mommy, daddy and grandpa and grand-

mas. I started taking karate last year and I have a yellow belt after four months. In September, I will start pre-k at a new school. I am excited to start pre-k and do activities. I want to learn how the sun works and how flowers grow.

Jude



Find the Hidden Words

You can go across, down, or diagonally...

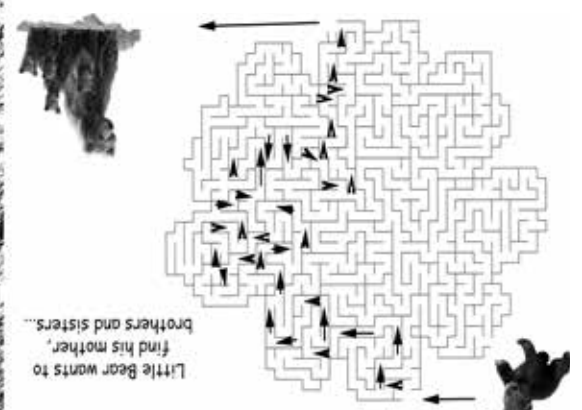
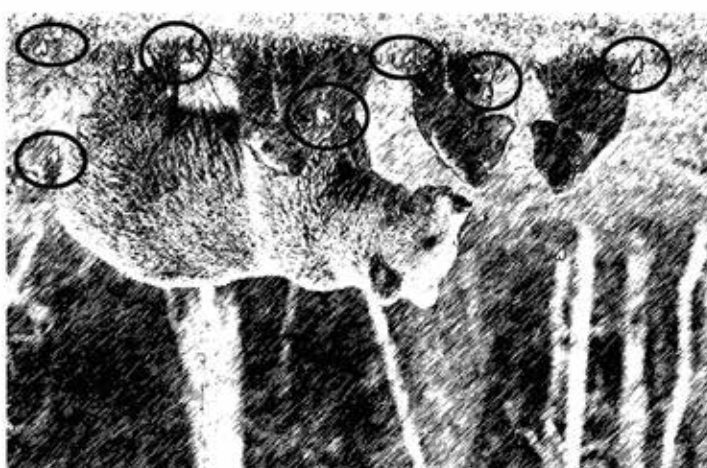
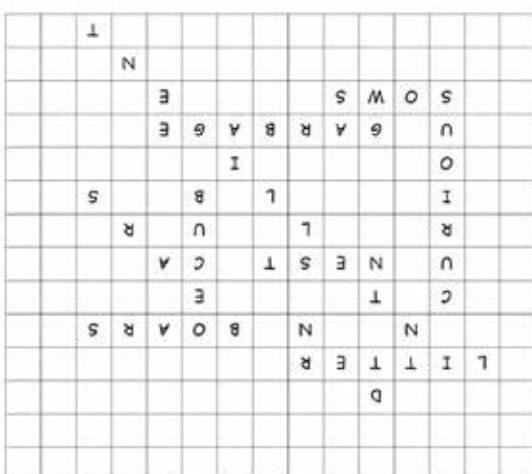
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B	E	A	T	H	E	C	L	O	C	K	I	T	T	N

BEARS are very good hunters. They are big, fast and **INTELLIGENT**. They can run faster than some horses. Where I live, they get into my **GARBAGE** and throw it all over my yard. They are always looking for a meal. Little bears however, are small, cute, mischievous and **CURIOUS**. A baby bear is called a **CUB**. They are born as a **LITTER** usually in a **DEN** though some are born in a **NEST**. Adult male bears are called **BOARS** and females are called **SOWS**.



Answers to Little Bear Issue Puzzles (Turn Upside Down)

puzzles by KarenLise Bjerring



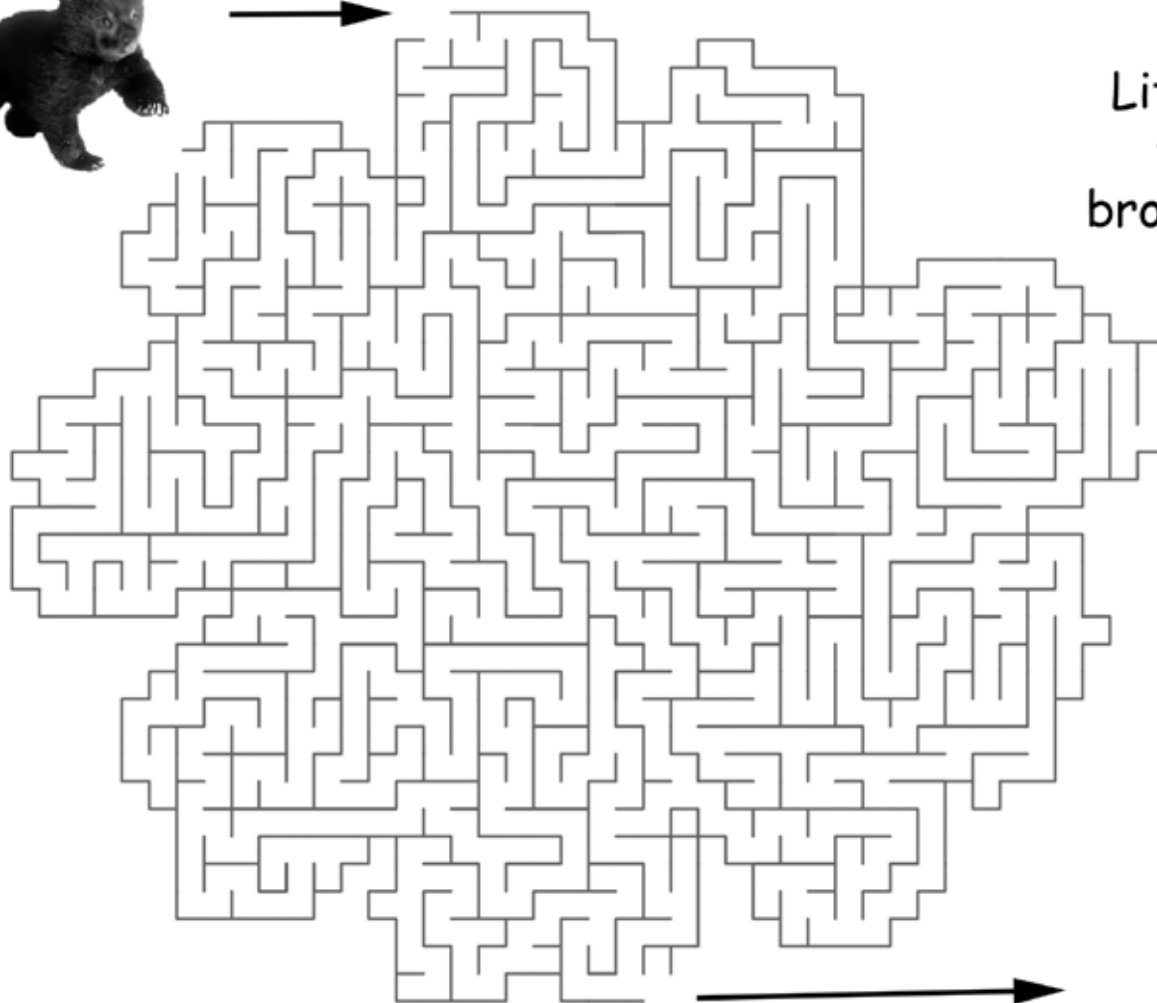
MORE LITTLE BEAR PUZZLES

Puzzles by KarenLise Bjerring

Find the Seven Hidden Hearts in the Drawing



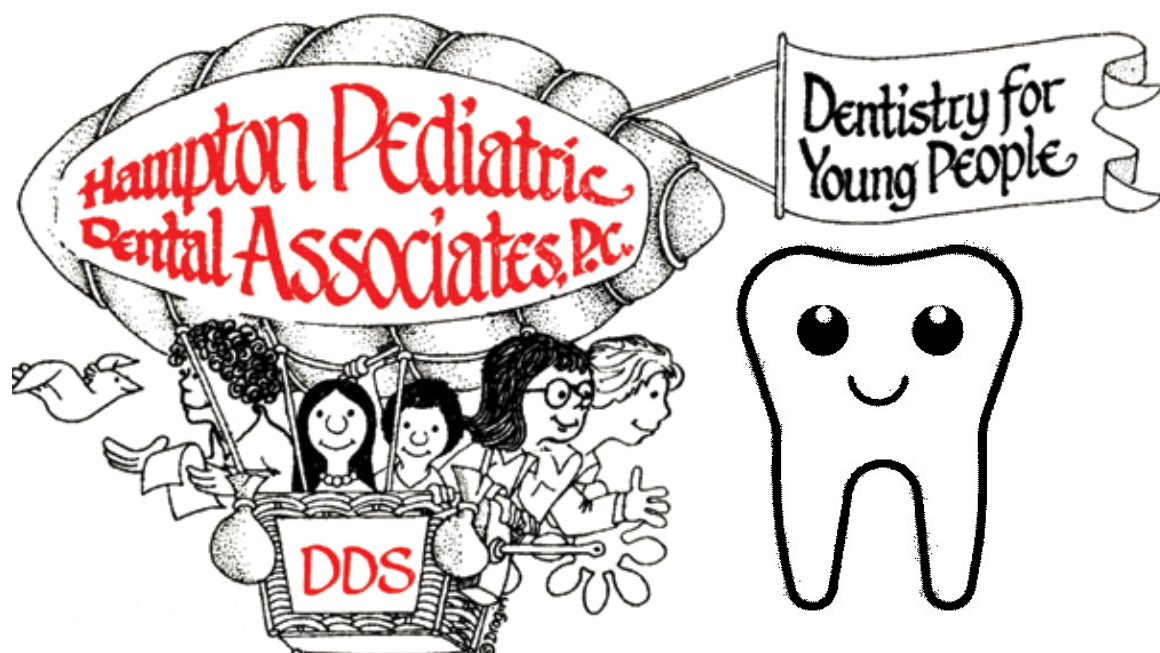
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