

Bear Talk

Bears "talk" to each other by using body language, making sounds, touching, seeing and smelling. This helps keep mothers and cubs together, and lets other bears know how close they can get to each other. It is helpful to understand their language because bears ***communicate** with people in the same way.

A bear standing on its hind legs is checking things out. It is simply trying to smell or get a better look at something interesting.

Bears make many sounds. Bears can make popping or woofing sounds when they are worried. Bears also make low throaty sounds when they are near each other. Cubs will cry when separated from their mothers. Mom will often talk to her cubs by grunting or blowing. She could be telling them to come along or that she is nervous.

Making sounds towards people, usually means a worried bear. It might swat the ground or run towards you. Often bears are simply bluffing. They will rarely actually touch a person because they don't really want to start a fight and get hurt themselves.

Often sounds are used together with body movements.

Body talk. When a bear wants to show another bear that it does not want to fight for ***dominance**, a fishing spot or a mate, it will move away, sit or lie down. If a bear walks or runs toward another bear, it could be trying to show who's the boss.

Smelly messages. Bears learn about each other by sniffing footprints and ***scat**. They leave messages for other bears by rubbing against or biting trees and bushes.

Bears communicate by playing and touching. Even adult bears have play fights. 'Friends' sometimes greet each other with rubbing and sniffing. Mothers and cubs are constantly touching, playing or ***nursing**.

BEARY PUZZLING

Find and circle these words.
The first one is done for you.

(Answers on page 18)

respect
harmony
smart
curious
peaceful
cubs
hungry
smell

playful dominance ants swat sniffing
bluff nervous berries crying popping
den communicate salmon blowing touching
claw dormant climb rubbing nursing

G P L A Y F U L A B S U O V R E N
N O C D G N I H C U O T E F G H K
I P A B L S A L M O N Y A F H B H
F P T M G N I W O L B R G U R C D
F I R O P M Q S W U D G N L U A O
I N A Y B Y A D X F G N I B B R R
N G M N M O L O R E I U S E B F M
S B S O R N Z M K C J H R Q I H A
E C O M M U N I C A T E U A N R N
I A B R D L C N A E S T N A G C T
R N G A F L D A R P C O B F D A E
R E C H A E L N E W D E Z O W R Q
E D K W Z M P C U R I O U S C A U
B O S H W S T E R Y B G N I Y R C

