

*The Berenstain Bears*  
**SEE, THINK & DO ACTIVITY GUIDE**

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Dear Educator, Parent and/or Caregiver,

WELCOME to *The Berenstain Bears* outreach kit designed for use at home and in the classroom. Led by the efforts of early childhood education expert, Andrea Tompkins, the kits are intended to expand upon the existing educational themes of the television series. Included in the kits are the See, Think & Do Activity Guides with reproducible and non-reproducible activities, video based lesson plans and an accompanying video clip reel, as well as a fun growth chart!

The outreach materials embrace the “whole child” philosophy of learning, which is the belief that intellectual development thrives best within an environment actively supporting social and emotional and cognitive growth and stability.

Please take the time to read the following helpful pages:

- Notes on Using this Guide: this page describes how to use this notebook in terms of preparing for and conducting the activities, as well as explaining the content of different types of activities.
- Series Description: this page serves as a fact sheet for the series, including a breakdown of the television series, character information, and educational goals.
- Informational Section Dividers: these dividers provide research and background information on the key learning areas covered by the activities.
- Index Graph: this comprehensive graph is designed to help you locate activities based on learning areas, grade levels, type of activity, etc.

We encourage you to use the contact page located toward the end of the notebook, as we are interested to hear any questions, comments or feedback.

We hope you agree that these kits are not only fun and entertaining, but also offer a terrific opportunity for children to gain valuable skills.

Happy learning!

Your Friends at Nelvana

# *The Berenstain Bears*

## **SEE, THINK & DO ACTIVITY GUIDE**

### **Notes on Using This Guide**

#### **How Outreach Activities Tie to Series Episodes**

At the top of each activity page, a *series episode* is described that shares a common subject or theme with the lesson below it. When possible, these stories should be taped, shown and discussed as a part of activity content. Viewing an educational story, reading a similarly-themed book and then engaging in a hands-on activity supports understanding of the new idea or concept—and is the foundation of this guide’s “See, Think and Do” framework for media-based learning.

This framework involves presenting new subjects in a way that reinforces and extends children’s learning through watching them, discussing them, reading about them—and then actively exploring them. The following Nelvana series are particularly effective in modeling for children: *The Berenstain Bears*/family and community, *Seven Little Monsters*/play and imagination—and *George Shrinks*/overcoming obstacles through creative problem-solving.

#### **How to Use These Activities**

These activities were designed to be used with young children in several different ways. The first is according to the key **educational goal** (such as creative problem-solving, dramatic and creative play, or family and community). Another, is by **learning area** (such as teamwork or self-esteem). A third is by specific **activity content** (such as cooking, crafts, and role-play). An **index** at the back of each guide identifies this information for activities so that they may be used in ways that best fit your classroom teaching units—or home needs.

You will note that the activities, themselves, go beyond basic “step 1, 2, 3” directions—to include detailed discussion questions about ideas, themes and subjects. This research-based method of teaching is designed to assess children’s level of familiarity with the new subject – then guide them toward a deeper level of understanding.

Since research also supports the importance of informing and including parents on what’s happening in the classroom, many activities incorporate “home connections” which extend themes through family participation. A sample parent/guardian letter outlines how to request home and caregiver involvement.

#### **Types of Activities**

Activities in this workbook have been designed in three different ways to explore with your children: **1) page activities** enhance the themes of individual series episodes, **2) page activities** also incorporate the use of a reproducible handout—and **3) page video lesson plans** include short clips (from the Nelvana Outreach Video Clip Reel) to explore and discuss.

#### **Key Activity Information**

Each activity contains the following, key pieces of information for teachers:

**McRel Standard Associations** for grades K-2, K-3 or K-12.

**Core Curriculum Associations** such as language arts or social studies.

**Suggested Reading** titles that will enhance activity themes.

**Home Connections** for extending activity themes through parent or caregiver involvement.

**Teacher Tips** providing background about the activity or suggestions for strengthening understanding of its themes.

#### **Special Notes on Video Lesson Plans**

Be sure to prepare for video lesson plans needing a VCR and television set to show snippets of individual shows. These short segments visually model different activity themes and support children’s understanding of them through associated discussion and analysis.

However, *any* activity can easily be reinforced and turned into a video lesson plan simply by taping and discussing the associated TV episode as a first step.

A couple of suggestions for showing video clips include: to preview each segment or show before presenting it to the class (for your own familiarity with content for later discussion)—and playing the clip two or three times to support young children’s understanding (or if the class has trouble answering questions about what happened in it).

# *The Berenstain Bears*

## **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

*The Berenstain Bears* is a contemporary classic. Since 1962, authors Stan and Jan Berenstain's warm, enchanting stories involving Mama, Papa, Brother and Sister Bear have delighted children and their families with themes that are funny, identifiable, and important. Important, not only because they entertain and provide literacy experiences, but also because they deal with issues crucial to the lives of young children. Over the years, the books have tackled a range of themes, including: peer pressure, prejudice, diversity, meeting responsibilities, and sibling rivalry.

Now, a richly animated new PBS series brings these wonderful tales to life incorporating three central learning areas: family and community, socio-emotional development and choices and decision-making.

### ***Bear family members consist of:***

**Papa Bear:** The word's greatest expert on "everything." He's often wrong, but never in doubt. Papa is one of the best carpenters in Bear Country. He loves his family and provides caring guidance to his children.

**Mama Bear:** A warm and wise parent whose wisdom and strength help solidify the family bond. She has diverse interests including gardening and quilt-making.

**Brother Bear:** An adventurous 10-year-old boy cub who loves all sports – and also enjoys teasing his sister every once in a while!

**Sister Bear:** An 8-year-old bundle of energy. She is expressive, knows what she wants, sometimes is a bit stubborn—and also excels in sports such as soccer.

The relationships between this loving Bear family and their classmates, neighbors, and peers showcase the ways in which children encounter challenge in their lives, identify how they feel, then go about making responsible decisions about what to say and do.