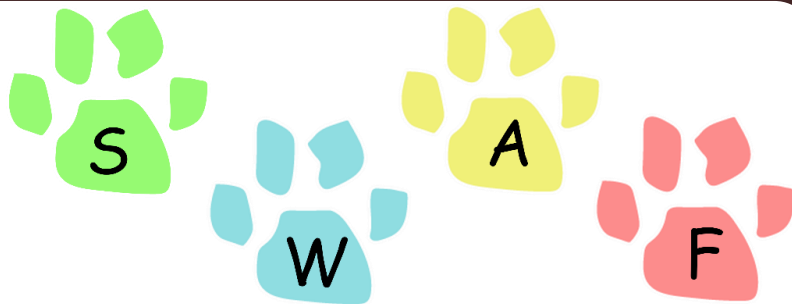


Guide for Teachers

S.W.A.F. Game



Activity Description

Discover how all animals need S.W.A.F. to survive. Children will play at being bears and learn/reinforce the meaning of S.W.A.F.

Activity type: Teacher-led activity – outdoors in garden/park

Time needed: 10 - 15 minutes

Learning Outcomes

The children will learn:

- What the S.W.A.F. letters stand for
- Which colours and actions are associated with each letter of S.W.A.F.

Equipment

The game requires space for all the children to run about safely. The teacher needs to print out the 4 A4 S.W.A.F. cards provided - these have S.W.A.F. colours with the correct letter on each, and the correct word on the back: **S**-Green card – Shelter; **W**-Blue card – Water; **A**-Yellow card – Air; **F**-Red card – Food (S.W.A.F. cards are available within the S.W.A.F. Game section in the Teddy Bears' Trail online area).

Activity Introduction

Explain to the children that all animals, like bears, need 4 important things to stay alive. Children may be able to suggest some/all of these if they have already been on the guided visit at the garden. The teddy secret code word S.W.A.F. helps us to remember them. The 4 things also have colours and actions to help us remember.

- **Shelter** – Green – Make a roof over head with arms.
- **Water** – Blue – Pretend to drink water like a bear.
- **Air** – Yellow – Big breath in and out.
- **Food** – Red – Pretend to eat messily like a bear.

In this game they are going to be bears and they are going to find the 4 needs of life.



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Activity Method

Give one coloured card to each of your 4 adults (or children if you don't have enough adults). Ask the adults to stand in an open space holding the card clearly showing just the colour/letter and remind the children not to go outside the area allocated. Call out one of the S.W.A.F. words (e.g. Shelter!). The children all run to that colour and do the action for that word. Turn the card round to check the word.

Make sure all 4 words are included in the game and keep reinforcing that bears need all the things in S.W.A.F. You can play as many rounds as you like, and some children may like to take the role of caller.

Follow-up/plenary questions

What 4 things do humans need to stay alive? Yes – S.W.A.F. We are animals too.

Health and Safety

Make sure your area has no trip hazards, and that the boundaries are clear for the children. Avoid areas close to flower beds or tree branches.

Next steps

Check out our other online resources available in the Teddy Bears' Trail online area on PropaGate Learning:

- Take the children on a walk with the S.W.A.F. spotters' sheet. Can they spot examples of things in nature that provide all 4 of the S.W.A.F. essential needs?
- Get creative in the Castaway Teddies activity to help reinforce that bears need all four things to stay healthy and survive.

